PRINCE CHARLES 0

The triumph of Britain's new young modernists: Section Two cover story

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THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER 1995

See page 7 for token

Blair is bad news for City, say directors

Poll shows gloom on pound and interest rates

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

Tony Blair has failed so far to get his message across to the City and big business that new Labour can be trusted to improve the economy, or hold down interest rates and income tax, according to a survey of

company executives. The poll of business opinion. which will come as a blow to Labour's hopes of winning over the business community, indicates that while 72.3 per cent of company chiefs think Labour Hemmington-Scott sent detailed questionnaires to 10,500 will win the next election, they believe a Blair government will be had for corporate Britain.

Asked by the leading City research organisation. Hemmington-Scott, how they thought the economy would fare, more than 80 per cent believed interest rates would rise in the long-term, 78.1 per cent said the pound would fall immediately and 71 per cent said it would remain depressed.

The survey, based on responses by more than 600 directors of companies quoted on the Stock Market, follows an intense campaign by Labour to secure support from big business. Mr Blair has recently addressed the CBI annual conference and toured the country talking to business leaders, while the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, ed into boardrooms to preach

the new Labour message. But the survey suggests directors believe there has not been much change from old Labour. The poll underlines fears in the Labour leadership that they have a long way to go in persuading many strands of the electorate that the party's are simply not getting through, economic strategy has changed. Some 64.4 per cent of those

Labour's opinion poll rating has been consistently 25 per cent ahead of the Tories in recent months. However, those who replied to the business survey

were more sceptical. More than 70 per cent think overseas companies will be less likely to set up shop in a Britain run by Mr Blair. The City of London's position as Europe's financial centre would be diminished under a Labour government, say more than 50 per cent of those who responded.

directors and non-executive directors of UK stock market companies. The survey results are based on replies from 614 of them.

It is not all grim reading for Labour. Many of those who were surveyed are dismayed by the Conservative government. The Tories deserve to lose," one director of a quoted company said. "The job could hardly be tackled less effectively," another said. But for all their reservations, they still be-lieve another term of Conservative rule would be better than a Labour government. "However poor the Tories are, at least they try to do the right things," was the plaintive com-

ment of one director. Personal wealth and the impact Labour will have on their featured highly in rectors' qualms about Mr Blair. More than half those responding - 56.6 per cent - think a Labour government would curb

executives' pay and perks. It is the effect on their own businesses, though, where the impact of Labour will hurt most, and where assurances

replying believe Labour would increase National Insurance contributions in the short-term. Over half of those surveyed predicted an almost immediate

rise in corporation tax. Even more alarming for Mr Blair is that after all his attempts to distance new Labour from the trade unions, 58.9 per cent of those responding fear a resurgence in union power. They predict the political influence of the unions would almost immediately increase both in Downing Street and in the workplace.

Repeated attempts by Mr Brown to convince business he would maintain a tight grip on the nation's purse strings appear to have failed. More than 90 per cent believe the public sector borrowing requirement will rise

in the long-term. There is, however, one bright spot in the otherwise unremittingly gloomy survey for Labour. A significant proportion of directors believe that the party would take effective steps to increase Britain's manufacturing base. But even here, more than half still believe Labour would not be able to deliver the goods.

A few lone voices speak up for the party. "A Labour government is vital for the future of Britain. The social divides. the wealth divides, the lack of parent, will otherwise continue to have a corrosive influence. one director told the survey. But the view which appears

to sum up boardroom opinion. according to the survey, is: "Once in, [a Labour government] will be the same dreary government it was before, with inadequate little men, Ms Beck-ett et al, floundering around." Bosnia, along with two other se-ternational, a charity working in Bosnia, using funds raised by Li-

Bosnian children fly in praying for Christmas cure



JOJO MOYES EMMA DALY

Lejla Ahmetstahic, a 13 year old girl suffering from lymphatic cancer, arrived in Britain yes-

terday to receive treatment that could save her life. Lejla, whose plight was high-lighted by the Independent last Saturday, arrived at Heathrow after a two-day journey across

Amela Kurtovic, who may lose a leg after a shell explosion, and Meliha Mulezinovic.13, who requires urgent open

surgery.
She was to be accompanied by another lymphoma sufferer, a seven-year-old boy, but he was considered too ill to travel. Doctors hope he may be well enough to fly to Britain today. All three were brought to Britain by Child Advocacy In-

ons Clubs International, the World Memorial Fund and readers of the Independent.

treatment wouldn't be possible." said Lejla's mother, Murisa Ahmetstahic, from Gorazde yesterday. "So we didn't expect this to happen. But we are very hopeful and very thankful. It is a very nice Christmas present. Lejla, who would have died if she had stayed in Bosnia, now stands an 80 per cent chance of recovery. She will be treated at

Liverpool's Alder Hey Hospi-tal, while the other children, and ing unit stationed on Serb-held three that arrived two weeks

across the north and midlands. The children arrived as Nato forces began their peace mission in Bosnia. D-Day marked the official end of the UN peacekeeping mission and the start of the alliance's role in implementing the peace deal reached in Dayton Ohio.

British forces pushed across a former front line in Bosnia to

territory. Three hours after the from B Squadron Battlegroup, The Light Dragoons, crossed the front line at Brenica (renamed "Black Dog" by the British) and drove on to the village of Krupa, 8 miles south of Banja Luka, the Serb stronghold which was for so long a no go area to western forces "Bit of a proud moment," said Trooper Paul Stewart.

Major in talks with **Princess Diana**

Political Correspondent

Expectations grew yesterday that the Government is trying to find a public role for the Princess of Wales after she held a one-hour meeting at Kensington Palace with John Major. Yesterday's meeting comes within a month of the princess's plea in her controversial

Panonima interview to become an "ambassador" for Britain. Number 10 downplayed the meeting at the princess's home as "something the Prime Minister does every so often, about two or three times a year".

But while Downing Street and Buckingham Palace gave no details, political sources thought it inconceivable the princess's

future had not come up.

The meeting with the Prime Minister came two days after the princess announced that would not, as originally



Diana: Seeking public role planned, spend Christmas with

the Queen, her estranged husband and two sons and other members of the Royal Family at Sandringham.
That latest example of the

princess distancing herself from the rest of Royal Family has fuelled calls by Prince Charles's supporters and senior Tory MPs for a speedy divorce.

Girl, 16, jumps to death after warning of suicide

JOHN McKIE and REBECCA FOWLER

16-year-old schoolgirl iumped to her death only hours after a previous suicide attempt in which she had been rescued from beneath a train.

Jessica O'Riordan died instantly on Tuesday night when she jumped from the fourth floor of the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth. The day before she had thrown herself on to railway tracks at Southampton station but survived because she fell between

the wheels of a moving train. She was taken immediately to the city's general hospital where she was seen by a doctor but then discharged into the care of her mother, a social worker, who took her home to Totton, just outside the city.

The next evening, she went to Bournemouth, with her ing concern over why social serfriend Sally Smith, 19, to see a concert by the pop band Pulp.
After the concert, she climbed up the fire escape of the hotel and jumped off. Ms Smith

was found by hotel staff next to her body in a hysterical state. On Monday evening, before Jessica's first suicide attempt, the two girls were spotted sitting on the toll bridge over the river Itchen, and were driven to safety by a policewoman, who had not realised Jessica was dis-

"They seemed very happy, and in no way suicidal," the policewoman said. "We even spoke about the subject, and one of them told me she would never kill herself because she loved her mum and wouldn't do

vices were not called in after Jessica's first suicide attempt. Hampshire County Council which was not contacted, said it was normal practice for social services to be involved in such

"We'd always take any report of suicide very seriously, par-ticularly so in the case of a teenager," said a spokesman. The hospital denied it had re-leased Jessica too quickly. "Given the circumstances we're

satisfied the doctors concerned acted quite properly and in consultation with the family," said a spokeswoman, Jessica's death stunned

friends and teachers at Hounsdown School, Totton, Southampton, where she was in her final year studying for GCSEs.

tears when the news of her death was announced at a special assembly, and were offered bereavement counselling.

Jessica was an intelligent and talented pupil, who clearly had a promising future, and as with the death of any young person it's hard for everyone to come to terms with such a tragedy." said Mark Gibbons, head

"Our thoughts at this time are particularly focused on Jessica's

Jessica's mother and two older sisters were being comforted at their home yesterday. Her sister, Josie, said: "My

mother is devastated by this. We are trying to think why Jessie did it. She had no history of de-

An inquest will be held.

IN BRIEF

Wife-killer jalled

The husband of a building society manageress was jailed for life for her murder after a jury rejected his story that the couple had been victims of a gang of armed robbers. Page 3

MPs attack CSA A powerful Commons committee criticised the Child Support Agency for making too Page 5 many mistakes.

Today's weather Very cold across the UK, with

Health Editor

Sexual attractiveness is the key determinant of a woman's position in the male-dominated banks and trading houses of the City, according to a study that reveals widespread sexism and discrimination as a legacy of the

1980s market boom. Women are classified by male colleagues on the basis of attractiveness, availability, age, snow in central and northern | clothes and make-up, as Section Two, page 21 | "babes", "one of the boys", a

"bit of a mum", a "lesbian", or a "dragon," and are treated accordingly, regardless of their job status.

Belinda Brooks-Gordon, of the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University, told the British Psychological Society conference in London yesterday, that "babes" were young, attractive, were shown more courtesy than other women, but had less credibility in the workplace. They were looked at more by the men and often were invited to out-of-work events.

defined as "goers". These were women who looked sexually active and willing.

Women who competed with men in terms of aggression and ability were "one of the boys". They tended to wear power suits and were accepted by men. A woman who was not regarded as attractive was a "bit of a mum" and was largely

ignored, except when she could

be prevailed upon to make tea.

Feminists were termed *les-

type, or do menial tasks.

bians", regardless of their sexual orientation. Most men thought this group could be converted by the sexual prowess of a "potent man" or "real player". Older and physically unattractive women were defined as

"dragons", which gave men licence to be ruder to them. Ms Brooks-Gordon said employers were lax about the behaviour of men towards the few women they worked with. Because few women hold senior positions in the City, this had been ignored by feminists.

cians and the media were attracted by the "phallic" symbol of the City and had "fashioned a masculinity around profitand-loss statements".

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Heartburn. One repeat you can avoid this Christmas. et least your haartburn can be taken dare gr Ask vauf <mark>aharmadist</mark> about Pepcid Ab

حكذا من الأصل

Ulster breakthrough: PMs prepare to meet following European agreement but killings provide grim backdrop

Irish summit go-ahead after steel deal

COLIN BROWN

Dublin sources last night said John Major will travel to Ireland today for a goodwill meeting with John Bruton, following an eleventh-hour deal over European subsidies for an Irish steel plant.

The two prime ministers are expected to issue a strongly worded condemnation of the recent killings by the IRA of It is aimed at stressing the close drugs dealers in Belfast, which relationship between the two have undermined Sinn Fein's men and the determination of commitment to exclusively

night were refusing to confirm that the meeting will take place, but authoritative Irish sources said Mr Major would travel to Dublin for the first time to meet the Irish Prime Minister to show unity over the peace process before Christmas.

The meeting will go ahead. They will meet in the late aftermoon, followed by a press conference, and a social event. the two governments to push ahead with the peace process.

Despite all the difficulties, it is production by the Irish plant.

The close relationship was put to breaking strain over the row over the EU subsidies. Mr Bruton was said to be "incandescent" with rage when he found that Britain was pre-pared to veto the aid package

at a council of ministers meet-

on track," said a Dublin source.

ing in Brussels yesterday because it would give the privatised steel plant near Cork an unfair advantage against British Steel. The veto threat was lifted after ministers agreed to a package including curbs on steel

The renewed violence in Belfast overshadowed yesterday's Anglo-Irish Conference in Dublin. The third drugs related killing in Belfast within two wecks yesterday led to allegations that the IRA had broken

Unionist politicians yesterday called on John Major to acknowledge that the ceasefire had been breached. But a senior RUC spokesman noticeably stopped short of blaming the IRA, though he said the killings had been carried out with the same degree of meticulous planning and ruthless execu-

Heseltine rounds on

care even less", Mr Heseltine told BBC Radio's The World at

One: "It's time for people to say

some fairly frank things. This

There was particular bitterness over the decision by

William Cash, the Euro-sceptic MP for Stafford, to vote against

the Government. It was said

Conservative Central Office

had gone out of its way to pro-

vide help with Mr Cash's suc-

cessful efforts to secure his

tween reactions of pro-Euro-

pean and Eurosceptic ministers.

One Euro-sceptic - while criticising the rebels as "silly" and "high on publicity" - professed to be relatively relaxed about

the long-term impact and said

that the rebellion had not been

PC jailed for sex with girl, 15

after. A jury at Preston Crown

Court rejected the girl's claims

that the officer raped her, but

he pleaded guilty to unlawful

sex took place in Grice-

underground car park of Black-

pool Central police station, af-

ter he had been called to find

The court was told that the

as large as feared.

sexual intercourse.

Adam Grice-Roberts, 32, that Roberts's Rover patrol car in the

But there was a contrast be-

reselection two months ago.

isn't a sort of game."

know little about fishing and cellor, came under fire from

The latest attack, on Tuesday night, claimed the life of Christopher Johnston, a father of four children, who was shot dead as he arrived home in the Lower Ormeau area of south Belfast, This followed killings on Monday and two weeks ago.

Responsibility for some of the killings has been claimed by a telephone caller purporting to speak for a group called "Direct Action Against Drugs." No one has heard of such a group until now. Police have admitted that some of those killed were involved in drugs. Mr Johnston

tion as paramilitary murders. was on bail on a charge of importing cannabis into Ulster. A County Tyrone priest, Monsignor Denis Faul, said

yesterday: "Of course it is the IRA. No one goes into areas such as the Lower Ormeau or New Lodge and carries guns unless they are the IRA or lowalist paramilitaries - and these were quite obviously not sectarian killings."

The Rev Ian Paisley said: "The fact that the government and the RUC are dancing around the reality that the ceasefire has been breached demonstrates that they are de-

liberately trying to con the peo-ple of Northern freland into believing there is a ceasefire when there is not."

The Anglo-Irish conference meeting in Dublin was "a preparatory session for today's scheduled summit between Mr Major and Mr Bruton.

It was planned to follow a visit by Mr Major to Belfast today and will compensate for the brief Downing Street presen-tation of the twin-track initiative on 28 November, rushed through at Dublin's insistence iust hours before US President Clinton's visit.

IN BRIEF

Move to restrict TV control of sport

Denis Howell, the former Sports Minister, is to table an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill next month in an attempt to prevent television companies having a say in the

running of sports they show. The former Labour MP, now Lord Howell of Aston Manor. was responding to vesterday's revelation in the Independent that Rupert Mundoch's News Corporation, which is investing £87m in rugby league's new Su-per League, will have the right to intervene in the sport's trans-

fer market. "No company or organisation owning a television channel should be allowed to have any involvement in the government of the game it televises," Lord Howell said vesterday.

Gay husband killing

A woman has urged the public to help track down the killers of her husband who had been leading a secret double life as a homosexual. Father-of-two Tony Davies: 40, was found stabbed to death on Pensam Beach, Abergele, North Wales, on Monday. He had failed to re-turn to his wife, Sheila, 37, at their home in Llysfaen, Colwyn Bay after visiting a sick relative the previous night.

Pensioners' poverty

One in three pensioners have difficulty coping on their in-come, while half say they only just manage to get by, according to the charity Age Concern, which has published a report Just About Coping showing stark evidence of pensioners struggies. Pensioner households have lower incomes than younger households. Single retired adults on state pensions have the lowest average national income at £82 per week. Half of all pensioner households de-pend on the state for at least 75 per cent of their income.

Spy centre ban

Moves to allow employees at the Government's GCHQ spy centre to belong to an independent union or staff federation were announced by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind. It is the first significant relaxing of rules at the Cheltenham electronic eavesdropping centre since the union ban imposed in 1984 under the then prime ministet, Margaret Thatcher. But staff will only be allowed to join a union or staff federation consisting solely of GCHQ staff and will still be banned from taking industrial action or go-ing to an industrial tribunal.

Rules on witnesses

Moves to curb chequebook journalism, particularly payments to witnesses in criminal cases, were promised by the Press Complaints Commission chairman, Lord Wakeham. The Tory former Cabinet minister told the Lords in a debate on the issue that he was proposing a new protocol to the self-regulatory Code of Practice for newspapers and magazines.

West 'nightmare'

The funeral on Tuesday of murdered schoolgirl Heather West marked the end of a "terrible nightmare", her brother, Steven West, 22, said yesterday. Heather was the last of 10 victims of her mother. Rosemary West, 42, who is now serving life for the murder of Heather, who disappeared in 1987, and nine other young women and girls, including her stepdaughter, Charmaine, 8.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD BelgiumBFr80 Italy 14,500 Cananas ... Pts300 Madeira ... Eac325 Opeus CE1.20 Make 43 cents Denmark Die 18 Norway Nis 20 France Frid Street Physics

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Loyalist leader gets 10 years for arming the paramilitaries

JOHN ARLIDGE Scotland Correspondent

A senior Ulster loyalist politician, who held talks with the Government as part of the northern Ireland peace process, was jailed for 10 years yesterday for gun-running. Lindsay Robb, a Progressive Unionist Party official, was convicted of conspiring to supply weapons to the outlawed processiant paramilitary group, the Ulster

Volunteer Force. Robb's two accomplices. John Johnston, 49, and William McArthur, 41, both from central Scotland, were sentenced to a total of 18 years at Edinburgh High Court for conspiring to further the aims of the UVF by criminal means. Three other men - Francis Hives, 45, from Liverpool, David White, 29, from Airdrie and Alexander Davidson, 23, of Lurgan – were jailed for a total of 12 years for

firearms offences. Robb's conviction is a severe embarrassment for the PUP the unofficial political arm of the UVF - which has declared its full support for the Ulster ceasetire. During his trial jurors heard that the 28-year-old led

land minister. Michael Ancram. at Stormont earlier this year. But in private he was running guns to lovalist death squads.

Robb, an umemployed printer from Lurgan, hatched a plot to buy weapons in England and transport them to Scotland before smuggling them across the Irish sea from Strangaer to Larne.

A diary found at Robb's home logged meetings with running. Johnston and McArthur, it contained references to the UVF. The three men arranged to buy the first consignment - handguns and semi-automatic machine pistols - in Liverpool. But the security services had

been tipped off about the opcration and M15 began roundthe-clock surveillanceArmed officers arrested Johnston, a lengthy surveillance operation. White and McArthur in July as they drove north from Merseyside to deliver the weapons to Robb. During the trial, which highlighted the close links between loyalist paramilitaries in Ulster and protestant sympathisers in Scotland, the jury heard that UVF members north a double life. In public he of the border were actively col-

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

"AN ABSOLUTE WINNER"

backed the peace process, joining a Unionist delegation which held talks with the Northern Irethe ceasefire in Ulster. Meetings between UVF sympathisers took place in pubs and Orange Halls across central Scotland, TRobb took the RUC's resettlement money and moved to the seaside town of Ayr on Scotland's west coast earlier this year. There, he used his membership of Craigavon Protestant Boys Flute Band to travel all over the country raising money for the UVF and seeking partners for his gun-

> But he chose poor accomplices. One of his main co-conspirators, John Johnston, was a drunk who began to brag about his UVF links and his friendship with Robb. Eventually, details of Robb's plan leaked out. The security services, who had been on the alert for signs that the UVF could be re-arming, began

It ended dramatically in Airdrie last July when armed police rammed Johnston's car. In the boot officers found semiautomatic machine pistols. David Ervine, a spokesman last night WED condemned the verdicts as "savage". The party would support

DONALD MACINTYRE and PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy

Prime Minister, yesterday

turned on Euro-rebels who cost

their party victory in the Commons on Tuesday night with a warning they could precipitate

In a barely disguised appeal to constituency parties to exer-

cise more leverage over their MPs, Mr Heseltine declared:

"Are they trying to replace this

Conservative government with

a Labour government which will

abandon all the safeguards that

John Major has secured in Eu-

rope? Their constituency asso-

ciations had better ask these

As Douglas Hogg, the Min-ister of Agriculture, said

scathingly of the rebels who de-

fied the government motion over fishing quotas that "they

a 15-year-old solvent abuser

on the back seat of his patrol car

after being told to drive her to hospital was jailed for 12

Mr Justice Laws told PC

he had been guilty of a "grave

breach of trust towards a girl he was supposed to be looking

months yesterday.

a Labour victory.

sorts of question."



Lindsay Robb leaving Edinburgh High Court yesterday after being jailed for 10 years

some Eurosceptic Tories be-

cause of his acknowledgement

in Madrid last weekend that

monetary union may go ahead.

Mr Clarke is thought by many MPs to believe that the EMU study demanded by John Ma-

jor into the relations between

countries inside and outside

monetary union will find that

absence from the division was

"subject to an arrangement

with the whips". Sir Michael

the girl collapsed in an alleyway, sniffing butane gas. The judge told him: "It is of the greatest

public interest that members of the public should be able to trust

police officers. That trust has

Grice-Roberts, of Hutton,

near Preston, will serve his sen-

tence segregated from other

prisoners for his own safety.

been lamentably abused,"

Major will prove soluble.

Rail franchises to get government the Tory Euro rebels aid in first year

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

Transport Correspondent The management buy-out teams which won control of two rail franchises yesterday will

both receive more government subsidy for their first year of operation than was paid to BR the problems thrown up by Mr this year. Government tempers were Enterprise Rail, which won not improved by the discovery that two Tories had apparently control of the London. Tilbury and Southend service, will get failed to vote for the Govern-£29m in its first year compared with the £28m received during ment because they thought the the current year, while Great Western Holdings, which won division was at 10pm rather than the earlier time of 7pm. Asked if he and Sir Michael Marshall the contract to run InterCity services out of Paddington, will get £53.2m in its first year compared with the £47.3m BR received. were the two late-comers, Michael Spicer MP said his

The level of subsidy will be reduced over time, partly be-cause Railtrack is being made to reduce its track access. These increases contrast with the reduced level of subsidy to

be paid to Stagecoach, the bus company which won control of South West Trains on Tuesday. Both companies have ob-tained franchises of more than the seven year standard length on the promise of investment in new trains. Great Western Holdings, which has obtained a 10 year franchise, has committed itself to spending £8m-£10m to improve its high speed trains and will look at a num-

into two to improve flexibility. If definite orders for new trains are not received within two years, the Office for Pas-senger Rail Franchising will cut the term to seven years.

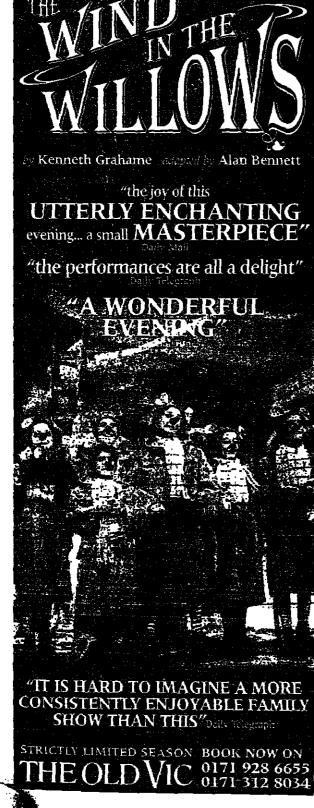
Similarly, Enterprise Rail has been given a 15 year franchise on condition it provides new trains by 1999 where the current rolling stock is over 30 years old. Claris Kinchin-Smith, the former director of the line who heads the new company, refused

to guarantee that there would be no cuts in services but promised that 95 per cent of current trains would still run-Both companies admitted job cuts among staff were likely. LTS employs 770 people while Great Western has 2,900

staff. New fares regulation imposed by the franchising director mean that 80 per cent of LTS's fares and 25 per cent of Great Western's cannot be increased by more than the rate of inflation.

Clare Short, Labour's trans-port spokeswoman, who has obtained a leaked copy of the LTS contract, said "poorer services were likely to follow privatisation" because "services can be cut back from the level of mitial agreements, fares cannot be reduced to attract more. customers and small stations can ber of investment plans, in- be left to decline".

Bottomley defends decision to stick by Davis





Bottomley: 'Only benificiary

HEATHER MILLS

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, vesterday strenuously defended her decision not to dismiss Peter Davis, director-general of Offot, over his acceptance of free flights from GTECH, one company that runs the National

Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, would conduct the inquiry ordered by Mr Davis fective". Outside of court she is

into allegations that GTECH said to be sharp, witty and an tried to bribe Richard Branson. stute judge of character.

abled him to return to work in Accounts Committee last week London earlier.

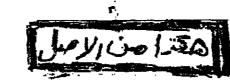
London earlier. the Virgin owner, to persuade him to withdraw his rival bid to run the lottery.

Ms Rafferty was the Bar representative on the Royal Commission set up in the wake of the series of miscarriages of justice, including the Birmingham Six of the partners in Camelot, the and the Guildford Four. She is highly regarded by her col-leagues who see her as hard-At the same time, it was announced that Ann Rafferty QC, and by judges who attmire her clarity. In court she is described

only beneficiary was the taxpayer who saved money by Mr Davis taking GTECH's hospitality and also gained because the flights on a private jet en- before the Commons Public completed in the new year.

said to be sharp, witty and an astute judge of character.

Facing sustained questioning from Opposition MPs, Mrs Bottomley, who was cover up. Her officials had admixed from Opposition MPs, Mrs Bottomley, who was cover up. Her officials had admixed from the Commons on the controlated from the Commons on the controlated from the Commons on the controlated from the PAC and half not tell the criticism of Mr Davis for ignoral from the Commons on the controlated from the PAC and half not tell the criticism of Mr Davis for ignoral from the controlated her of engaging in a making a prepared statement to the Commons on the controlated her of engaging in a making a prepared statement to the Commons on the controlated her of engaging in a making a prepared statement to the Commons on the controlated her of engaging in a making a prepared statement to the Commons on the controlated her of engaging in a making a prepared statement to the Commons on the controlated her of engaging in a making a prepared statement to the Commons on the controlated her of engaging in a making a prepared statement to the Commons on the controlated her of engaging in a making a prepared statement to the Commons on the controlated from the Commons on the controlated her of engaging in a making a prepared statement to the Commons on the controlated from the PAC and half not tell the criticism of Mr Davis of lights before the PAC and half not tell the criticism of Mr Davis of lights tectore the PAC and half not tell the criticism of Mr Davis of lights to tool the National American properties and the controlated her of the officials had admixed from the Commons on the controlated her of the pakes of the province has a cover up. Her officials had admixed from the Commons on the controlated her of the PAC and half not tell the criticism of Mr Davis of lights to tool the National American province has a cover up. Her officials had admixed from the Commons on the controlated her of the PAC and half not tell the criticism of the PAC and half not tell the given in general terms.
Alan Williams MP for Swansea West, who first raised



news

Life for husband who murdered 'devoted' wife

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The husband of a building society manageress was jailed for life yesterday for murdering his wife after a jury rejected his story that the couple were vic-

tims of a gang of armed robbers. Gordon Wardell, 42, had claimed that he had been drugged and gagged by criminals for 16 hours during a raid.

A jury at Oxford Crown Court unanimously rejected his story and decided he strangled his 39-year-old wife Carol last September and dumped her in a lay-by near Nuneaton, in Warwickshire.

Sentencing Wardell, Mr Jus-tice Cresswell said: "You are an extremely dangerous, evil and devious man. You killed your wife in a brutal manner then cynically attempted to escape detection by going to elaborate lengths to make it appear that your crime was the work of a gang of robbers.
"This murder was an outrage

to your wife, her family, and to everybody who knew her."

There were gasps of "yes" from the public gallery and Mrs Wardell's mother, Joan, burst into tears. Wardell, a 6ft 3ins tall fitness fanatic, looked pale and shook his head.

Before passing sentence the court was told of a previous conviction when Wardell, as a 17year-old student, was jailed for four years for wounding with intent after indecently assaulting and stabbing the wife of his science master.

The murder trial was told that Wardell staged a raid at the Nuneaton branch of the Woolwich building society, stealing

wife's sandals in the office in an attempt to cover his tracks. He bound and gagged himself at the couple's home in Meriden, Warwickshire, where he was found by police. He told them a gang had kidnapped his wife, who was found suffocated.

Carol Wardell's mother, Joan Heslop, 67, welcomed the guilty verdict and said that her daughter could now "rest in peace". She said: "She loved life. To have it taken away so tragically in such a way was terrible."

Mrs Heslop said she had suspected her son-in-law since the day after the funeral where Wardell had continued his charade of the grieving widower. "It was just a mother's feeling I suppose," she said.

Mrs Wardell's sister, Susan Field, 42, said: "Carol was the linchpin of the family. She kept us together because the family meant everything to her." Detective Superintendent

Tony Bayliss, who led the murder investigation, said that a motive for the killing has never been fully established though one theory was that Wardell was at risk of losing his job as an executive for a car parts company. "Inevitably it led to fi-nancial problems but I believe the murder was domestically oriented," said Mr Bayliss.

Carol Wardell was described as devoted to her husband, whom she married in 1982. She was said to have concentrated on her career at the Woolwich after finding out she could not have children.

The court was told that Wardell had not had sex with his wife for six months before her death and the relationship worsened because he had suffered







calculating' killer who shed tears before cameras

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

It was an extraordinary murder, carried out by a man prepared to go to extraordinary lengths to hide his guilt.

On two occasions Gordon Wardell publicly wept for his dead wife - first during an appeal on television to catch the cvil killers", and then again at her funeral. Yet as his tears fell and he talked of his terrible loss. he alone knew what it felt like to strangle his wife and then

dump her body on the roadside. During Wardell's trial the jury was told that there did not appear to be a single reason for the murder - money and the breakdown of their relationship seemed the most likely explanations. But whatever the motivation, Wardell, who was considered a "thinker", must have pondered for many hours over the pion

The police were first alerted on 12 September last year when the body of Carol Wardell, 39, was discovered at a lay-by on the posed to have taken Mrs Wardell

A444 near Nuneaton, Warwickshire. When detectives arrived at her home in Meriden, they found her semi-naked husband bound and gagged. He told them that he had arrived home the previous evening to find a gang of five men, one of whom was wearing a clown's mask, holding his wife at knifepoint.

He claimed that a rag with an 'acrid' smell was placed over his mouth and knocked him out for about 10 hours. While he was . unconscious the gang was sup-

to the Nuneaton branch of the Woolwich Building Society where she worked, and stolen about £14,000. She was then killed and her body abandoned. Four days later a frail and

gaunt-looking Wardell, seated in a wheelchair, spoke at a police press conference. Weeping before the cameras he said Carol's killers were "totally evil" and that he had "lost everything". The police said he was receiving stress counselling for his ordeal. He went on to take part in

a police reconstruction.

Later he was to lead 200 mourners and comfort Carol's mother, Joan Heslop, who collapsed in tears after placing a red rose on her daughter's coffin.

But although Wardell must have thought his performance had convinced everyone of his innocence the police had a very different view.

They believe that he suffocated and strangled his wife at home before driving to the building society and looting the safe using her security code and keys. He then dumped her himself and anaesthetists said it

body. Finally he returned home and beat himself in the stomach before gagging himself with a ripped sheet from his garage and tving his hands and legs to a rubbish bin.

The police were suspicious of his story that a gang of hardened criminals who were willing to kill for money chose to take just £14,000 from a rural building society branch, and leave other valuables at the Wardell's home. Knot experts proved that he

could have ned and gagged

would have been almost impossible for him to have been unconscious for 10 hours - he would have been knocked out for only a few minutes, they said.

Another key piece of evi-dence that helped convict Wardell was the post-mortem examination. The court was told that scientific examination of Mrs Wardell showed it would have been impossible for her to have been alive at 100m when Wardell said he arrived home.

It was also told that despite Wardelf's claims that he had

smelled smoke at his home forensic tests revealed no cigarette ash or smoke in the house and no sign of glove or hand prints from the gang.

At the trial Richard Wakerley QC, prosecuting, said: "He made mistakes. He tried to be too clever. Maybe he overlooked the scientific evidence the police could bring to bear.

Later Detective Superintendent Tony Bayliss, who led the investigation, described Wardell as a "cool, cold, calcu-

Lottery funds help gallery buy masterpiece for £16m

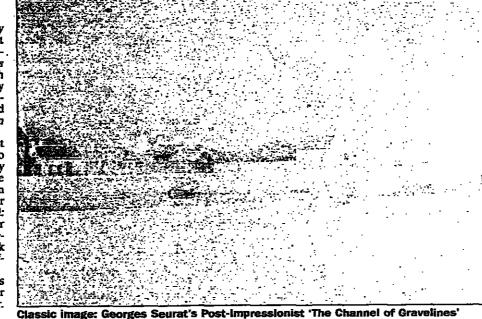
Same of the con-

The National Gallery yesterday announced that it has bought Georges Seurat's classic painting The Channel of Gravelines for around £16m, half of which has come from National Lottery funds. The French Post-Im pressionist masterpiece fetched fom when it was sold abroad in

The National Gallery last night defended the decision to use £2.7m of Heritage Lottery Fund money over the next three years for the purchase. John Leighton, the gallery's curator of 19th century paintings, said: There hasn't been a major work by Seurat to appear at auction since 1970 and this is a work that would be much sought after by most art dealers.

The British public now owns the painting and it's there for them to see for ever and ever. We don't sell."

The piece will hang alongside seven other pieces by Seurat and Van Gogh's Sunflowers in the National Gallery's most popular section. It is the first major work bought by the National Gallery since the early 1980s and in addition to lottery funds,



was paid for by the gallery and in Glasgow. The painting was on other donations. in Glasgow. The painting was on a five-year loan to the Nation-

It is intended that the Seurat will stay in Britain, mainly at the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, but it will also visit three other public galleries, starting

al Gallery from Heinz Berggruen's private collection, which was due to expire next year. Mr Leighton also countered accusations that the gallery had

given its decision not to enter the 1986 sale "I am sure they tried to buy at that time but it's important to remember that was before the art market had tak-

cancer gene breakthrough

CHARLES ARTHUR Science Correspondent

British scientists hope that their discovery of a second gene for breast cancer, announced vesterday, may lead to treatments for the disease which kills 16,000 women a year in the UK. The team, funded by the Cancer Research Campaign. won a three-way international

race to find the gene, code-named BRCA2.

Few cases of breast cancer are

inherited; about 95 per cent appear to be "sporadic". But by analysing genetic differences in the cases which do run in families, researchers hope to cast light on non-inherited cases. Although the newly-discov-

ered gene is extremely rare, and thought to cause only 2 per cent of all breast cancer cases. researchers think that it may play a key role in allowing the disease to progress.

By understanding how it works, they might be able to develop treatments for any form of breast cancer.

They discounted the suggestion their work might lead to people choosing abortions based on genetic testing of foe-



UK scientists claim breast

tuses, if they were carrying the gene. "Some women in families with this gene decide that they don't want to be tested to see if they have it," said Mike Stratton, who led the team at the institute of Cancer Research. Pre-natal tests would need

very careful consideration." The first breast cancer gene. BRCAL was discovered by an American team at Utah University in 1994 after four years work. The same team, and another in Texas, were also trying to pinpoint the second gene.

BRCA1 and BRCA2 were

larly associated with early onin the sample developed breast cancer at 19 - and only with breast cancer, BRCA1 is also associated with an inherited tendency to get ovarian, prostate and colon cancer. While BRCA1 accounts for

tracked down by analysing

genes from families with a his-

tory of breast cancer in female.

relatives. BRCA2 is particu-

almost half the 1,000-plus known breast cancer families in the UK, BRCA2 is likely to be responsible for a third. It is also

families: 100 men die of the dis-

ease in the UK annually. BRCA2's importance has led researchers to think it plays a key role in the development of breast cancer. The BRCA2 gene has a fault which means that the protein it makes lacks function. It's like the brakes on a car not working," said Mike Stratton, of the Institute of Cancer Research, who led the team tracking down the gene. "That may mean it cannot stop cells replicating, allowing them to form a tumour.

The team now wants to my to find out what role the protein made by the gene plays. "By finding that, we may be able to find the drug strategies that will allow us to treat the cancer." said Dr Stratton.

However, screening everybody for the gene would be virtually impossible, he said.

The Cancer Research Campaign has filed a preliminary patent covering its research on the gene. Diagnostic tests for BRCA1 must pay royalties to Myriad Genetics, a company set up by the American scientists who discovered and patented it.

Cellnet and Vodafone think Saturday should be peak rate on their business tariffs,

Orange think the WOOD weekend should be off-peak.

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'Satan's burglar' is jailed for 27 years

A burgiar known as Lucifer who preyed on wealthy householders and was branded the most dangerous robber in Britain after a "wicked and callous" campaign of terror, was jailed for 27 years yesterday. Keith Bramble, 36, who

boasted that he was protected by Satan and could never be caught, has received the longest term of imprisonment ever passed in Britain for domestic

At Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court Judge Derek Clarkson told Bramble, who po-

robberies over 10 years, he had to part with their money and enjoyed frightening his victims.

"It is a sorry feature of this case that inspiring terror seems to have had an appeal to Keith Bramble... [he] gloried in the effect that he could produce in the wave of terror"

Domestic hurglaries were much more serious than raids on banks or building societies - institutions prepared for such crimes, he said. Residents in their own homes are taken completely by surprise and, with the use or threat of pertheir rings. . . taken from their

Judge Clarkson said too many courts looked "with a certain intellectual detachment" on crimes committed in Britain without taking into account the effect on the victims. "The public expect... judges to take into account the effect of crimes of this sort on people who are attacked in their own dwellings, where they should feel always

his victims had been left "devastated", unable to sleep properly, paranoid about security and frightened to be alone, the judge said he had been struck by the way Bramble, 6ft 4in, had strolled "indifferently" around his victims' houses, taking what

torment and horror". He said the punishment should "act as a deterrent... would be invoking special sen-tencing powers available under

he wanted and causing "shock,

led the hunt for Bramble, that pose a jail term 50 per cent have passed

He sentenced Bramble to concurrent terms of 21, 22 and 27 years for three robberies and six months concurrently for assaulting a prison officer with intent to resist arrest.

Anthony Gabbidon, 31, who accompanied Bramble on the last raid, was jailed for 16 years for the raid, and 12 months conagainst such serious crimes". He secutively for wounding an arresting police officer with intent. Det insp Shatford said after

the hearing. "This is a very good result. This is the longest jail sentence ever imposed for domestic break-ins."

He said Bramble, who dressed in black, wore a "highwayman's mask" and armed himself with an arsenal of weapons, including crowbars, knives and a screwdriver, had carried out "a campaign of un-mitigated terror". Bramble, he said, liked his victims to be in so he could "relish their fear" and feed his addiction for inflicting "maximum terror". Det Insp Shatford had told

the judge that Bramble, of no fixed address, had targeted homes in up-market areas such as Bishops Avenue, Hampstead, north London. Many of his victims turned their homes into "fortresses" or moved out altogether.

"They will never recover from it," Det Insp Shatford said. "I have spoken to them ail and they are totally devastated ... they do not feel safe in their own homes any more. Nightmares are a frequent occurrence and they actually had flashbacks



Bramble: Record jall term for domestic burgiaries

Animal hospital works to save the eyes of a tiger

After being told by Detective



Tiger feat: Veterinarians at an animal hospital in Otario, Canada, perform cataract surgery yesterday on Nogi, a seven-month-old tiger who has been blind since birth. Veterinary students peer through the operating room window

Bormann book 'a fairy story', say Churchills

STEVE BOGGAN

A book which claims that Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, was snatched from Germany and settled in England by Winston Churchill has been awarded a £500,000 advance by one of Britain's bigges

publishing houses. Simon & Schuster believes it has landed one of the greatest publishing coups of the decade, but historians and members of the Churchill family yesterday described the account as "a fairy

story".

The book, to be published next September, is being ghost-written by Duff Hart-Davis, the ghost-writer of a string of successful books including, most recently, The One That Got Away, the rival to Andy McNab's blockbuster Bravo Two Zero about the activities of the SAS.

It is being drawn from the account of a mystery intelligence officer, calling himself Christopher Crichton, who claims that he and Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond novels, led a team of 150 British commandos charged by Churchill with rescuing Bormann from Berlin in the last days of the war and bringing him to Britain.

Bormann, the story goes, had access to billions of pounds and only he could authorise its release from Swiss bank accounts so the Allies could return it to its rightful owners. In return, the Nazi was given a false identity and settled in a village in the Home Counties with a Danish mistress by whom he fathered a daughter

According to the Crichton sentenced to death in absentia years ago and is buried near the unnamed village in an

unmarked grave. Mr Hart-Davis said he was sceptical when first approached to ghost-write the book, but he is now convinced Crichton's account is true. "We are

expecting a lot of criticism and



Top Nazis: Hitler with his deputy, Martin Bormann (left)

disbelief - well, you would when you rewrite 50 years of history," he said. "I have seen a lot of the evidence and it's com-

That evidence is said to include letters from Winston Churchill to Crichton dated 1956, turning down the latter's request for permission to write account then.

However, Mr Hart-Davis said he remains baffled by the fact that none of the 150 commandos has ever come forward to discuss the mission (he estimates there are 30 left) and by the fact that Fleming never stolen from occupied countries mentioned it to any of his family or friends.

mning for the new account, which attempts to refute the officially accepted view that Bormann died in Berlin. Remains found at the spot where he was supposed to have died have been authenticated as his, although arguments still

"The idea that Churchill at the Nuremberg trials, died six should authorise such a preposterous operation simply beg-gars belief," said Richard Overy, Professor of Modern History at King's College, London. T cannot believe Churchill would have risked alienating our allies by secretly protecting someone as senior as Bormann while every effort was being

made to apprehend other war

"I would be the most surprised historian in Britain if this turned out to be true. It would be impossible in the chaos of the closing days of the war to know where Bormann was, let alone bank on getting to him."

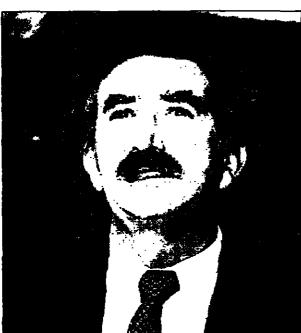
Winston Churchill MP, the wartime prime minister's grandson, said: "It's just a fairy tale. A few years ago, Martin Bor-mann was found alive and well in the Congo. I regularly get letters from a man in Newhaven who sees Dr Josef Mengele in his local cafe.

"Have any of these so-called commandos come forward? No. And there are hundreds of thousands of letters with my grandfather's signature on. I got told off by Sotheby's a few years ago because it turned out I had been authenticating his signature on letters which had actually been made from a

Webb, managing director of Simon & Schuster, believes he

will get his money's worth.
"Other publishers turned the book down, but they did not see what we have seen," he said. "We have checked out the evidence and it stands up well. We know there will be doubters. but all we can say is wait and

Solicitor 'milked £7m from relatives of dead'



Durnford Ford: 'Devious conman who cheated the dead'

the biggest law firms in the South-east was failed for 10 years vesterday for stealing more than £5m from the estates

of dead clients. Graham Durnford Ford, 52, of Battle, East Sussex, had admitted 10 specimen theft charges, during the original hearing in October at Maidstone Crown Court. His former junior partner, William Bew, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, received a 15-month suspended sentence after being found guilty of four counts of fur-nishing false information.

Durnford Ford, who was described as a tyrant by his senior partners, headed a law firm based in Hastings, East Sussex. There were other branches in Battle, Bexhill, Eastbourne, Hailsham, Polegate, Rye, and Scaford, and the company also had offices in Ashford. Kent,

and London. The court was told that between 1989 and 1992, funds

A solicitor who headed one of awaiting distribution from the regularities were only noticed the biggest law firms in the estates of the deceased were when the practice collapsed in ford Ford's arrest by the serious estates of the deceased were plundered. Timothy Barnes QC, for the prosecution, said it was not in the public interest to divulge the exact amount stolen. But he added: "The extent of

the losses is not less than £5m." Global losses paid out by the Law Society in compensation totalled £8.7m, the court was told. Other former directors now have to pay 50 per cent of their salary over £16,000, plus any windfall payments to the Law Society. Contributions by solicitors un and down the country to the Law Society compensa-

tion fund have also increased. Mr Barnes said that although most estates were simple. Ford had taken an excessive amount of time to release assets. He told the jury this was because the assets were rapidly turned into cash and transferred into the firm's account us-

ing interim bills. These bills were

they were shredded and the ir-

May 1992. Copies remained in the company's accounts.

Fees charged were also excessive, said Mr Barnes, sometimes eight times the going rate. This meant that when money was forthcoming from a a deceased person's estate the amount was substantially smaller than it should have been. One estate of £33,800 was re-

duced by Durnford Ford to just £530. Another fell from £62,000 to just £9,200, and a bequest of around £140,000 to the Guide Dogs Association was reduced to £13,500.

The court was also told that Ford used the office bank account almost as his own personal funds. During four years of fraud he took almost £870,000 for personal use -"providing him with "a very good living indeed".

He was first confronted with never sent to clients, instead the allegations, when two colleagues became suspicious over

ford Ford's arrest by the serious fraud office, his law firm collapsed with the loss of 230 jobs.

Passing sentence, Judge David Croft said Ford had bought shame on his profession "First it could be said you were cheating the dead. Likewise grieving relatives, and you put the executors in an intolerable position while the stress on families hardly bears thinking

Your dishonesty and lying didn't stop there - other victims were your partners, some of them old friends, and their families. At no stage have I identified any remorse at what you have done."

Before sentencing Bew, Judge Croft said he had "never seen a more reluctant man

of dishonesty". He said Bew had been "bamble. "You were exposed to one

boozled" into getting into trouof the most devious commen I've

Ofwat calls for drought order cash penalties

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

The water industry could be hit with a massive bill for compensating customers at times of drought if proposals from the watchdog, Ofwat, go ahead.

Under the plan, water com-panies may in future have to pay £10 per day up to a limit of £100 to households affected by standpipes or rota cuts. Customers experiencing problems because of a drop in water pressure would be entitled to £25 in a given year and businesses would be allowed to claim against losses caused by a Drought Order.

Ofwat's director-general, Ian Byatt, stops short of suggesting compensation for hosepipe restrictions but says that those paying for water through use of a meter should be the last to be subject to any ban. Millions of people have experienced hosepipe bans since the summer months and in many areas the restrictions are still in place.

The move was given only a guarded welcome by consumer groups, with Ofwat's Customer Council calling again for retro-spective help for those who have suffered in 1995. Jim Gardner, council chairman said: "Any changes that are made to strengthen the statutory rights of customers will come too late to help those customers who have suffered this year. They

must not be forgotten." time limited to 10 days in a year, dismissing as "very weak" - rather than seeking compensation when problems occur.

want so harsh a penalty as to

"bankrupt" the firms. Robin Simpson, deputy director of the NCC, said: "If this is such a rare event as the water companies say it is, then what have they to fear from an indefinite scheme? If it is such a danger [to their finances] then there must indeed be a serious risk and we should be telling the public.'

Ofwar's proposals are part of a consultation document containing recommendations for the Secretaries of State for the Environment and for Wales, who would have to implement

the changes in law. The watchdog said that the figure of £100 chosen as the limit for rota cuts and standpipes is roughly equivalent to the water-related part of the average water and sewage bill. A spokeswoman said, however, that opinions were being sought on the level of compensation, including whether bigger com-

panies should have to pay more. She said Ofwat still wanted companies to volunteer redress for people who have had problems this year, but pointed out that there is at present no legal requirement for them to do so. Only a a few of the companies, including Thames and Wessex,

have taken any action so far. Frank Dobson, shadow Environment Secretary, accused the watchdog of taking the wrong approach, saying that Mr The National Consumer

Council argued that the £10 daion the companies to cut leaks ly compensation should not be from the pipe system - a major cause of this year's difficulties - rather than seeking compen-

British Psychological Society: Scientists cast doubt on attempts to cut fraud and reveal sci-fi cult fans' secrets Photo-cards lose credit Trekkies declared human

Attempts to cut credit card probably a waste of money, acanalyse their effectiveness.

In a controlled experiment at a London supermarket more armed with four photo credit than 50 per cent of fraudulent cards were accepted.

minster University, told the BPS conference that trying to match a photo to a stranger's face was "too difficult". In non fraudulent cards were accepted; experimental situations the detection of fraud would be even lower, he added.

Dr Kemp's team took over a student, and 35 per cent of One in ten "Trekkies" - Jans of mous enjoyment and wide so- Trek as a child. Others said they fraud with photo-cards are supermarket staffed by six regular cashiers who were warned cording to the first study to to be on the look-out for fraudulent cards. A group of 44 students acted as "shoppers"

cards; one as the student looked, one with cosmetic Richard Kemp, from the de-partment of psychology at West-cards of someone who resembled the student and one of someone totally different. Overall more than half of

including 64 per cent of the

cards hearing a photo of some-

one who looked similar to the

fraudulent cards with photos that looked different. Fourteen per cent of the valid cards were also rejected.

Credit card photographs are already offered by some banks and building societies who claim a reduction in fraud as a result.

The findings of the study cast doubt on this, said Dr Nicky Towell, one of the researchers. There is a widely held assumption that photo credit cards are a cheap and effective way of stopping fraud. But this is not the case," she

Tiek - are addicted to the show and develop withdrawal symptoms when their access to film or videos is restricted.

of Northumbria University revealed that a small proportion of fans showed this obsessive trait, and developed anxiety and stress ter had degrees and 53 per cent symptoms if deprived of regular

However, the majority of fans were healthy, happy individuals - perhaps a little on the

the cult television series Star cial contact through their in- drew inspiration from the prolonely, inadequate people who are drifting in a nether world of Star Trek which is the common A study of 250 Trekkies by Dr stereotype. They are the same Sandy Wilson and Dr Ian Inglis as any other fan of opera, wine or music," Dr inglis said.

More than half of Trekkies in the study were married, a quarwere women. Their age ranged from 7 to 69 and they came from every occupational and educational background.

Many said they were inspired shy side - who derived enor- to study science by watching Star

terest in Star Trek. They are not gramme in times of trouble. Dr Inglis said that the philosophy of the early Star Trek series - of a harmonious universe

free of racism and sexism - appealed to many fans. "These were radical ideas explored and developed by the series in the Sixties," he added. However, Star Trek, The New

Generation was now surpassing the original in popularity. "The optimism of these films may be providing an antidote to the bleakness of the Eighties and Nineties," he said.

هكذا من الأصل

Beating motorway madness: Psychologist launches new drive at service stations to promote calm behind the wheel Couch trip that helps



Albert Roux, the chef and newly-appointed consultant for newly-appointed consultant for motorway service station food, was supposed to be testing mince pies when he found himself on the psychologist's couch.

"Stress is a matter of the mind," he told psychologist Conrad King, helpfully, as they sat alongside the coffee machine at South Minnes service station.

at South Mimms service station on the M25 at Potters Bar. "If you're in traffic, never get ex-asperated, never be rude. Just be calm, otherwise you're con-suming energy for nothing." Informed that the RAC was

advising motorists on "road rage", the flamboyant French chef was more than willing to join in. Somewhere along the line he missed the point that the person receiving the benefit of his wisdom was the man supused to be dispensing it. Mr King is an expert on the

help motorists understand their frustrations, but drivers were not coming forward until Mr Roux

stopped by.
Mr King did not mind as long as the message got across:
"Frustration or stress in the car is not dangerous. What's dan-gerous is what you do with it." Shouting and swearing in the confines of a vehicle only affects the driver. Offensive gestures to others sets off a chain reaction that can end in violence.

Yesterday the Glasgow-based psychologist was at South Minnes. Today he will be at services on the M3 at Fleet, in Hampshire, and tomorrow at Birchanger Green on the M11

Brian Perkins, a 60-year-old lecturer and marketing consultant from Cheshire, thought it an excellent idea. "I've had

to combat road rage menace of anger on the roads.
He was at the service station to
ences on the roads," he said. He
considered himself "relativeplacid, but certain antics infuriated him. Other drivers queue-jumping when he was waiting, for example. "You get angry at people becoming indisciplined and you become indisciplined." Mr King told him

to concentrate on relaxing. The advice was too late for Richard Sullivan, 34, from Armitage, Staffordshire. He had an accident yesterday and, hear-ing about the counselling session, popped in for a few words. "I was with him for about 35 minutes," Mr King said. "His car was written off and he was

feeling kind of numb and want-ed to talk to someone about it." Edmund King, the psychologist's brother and the RAC's head of campaigns, said Christmas was a stressful time. "We do not want stress spilling out on to the roads. Take time to re-

MPs attack **CSA** over 40 per cent error rate

CHRIS BLACKHURST estminster Correspondent

Social Security ministers and officials at the troubled Child Support Agency were slated by a powerful group of MPs yesterday for making too yesterday for making too

which is dominated by Tories, said they were "gravely dis-turbed" that four in 10 demands issued in the agency's first year were riddled with errors. In a hostile report, the committee "severely criticises" the agency and the Department of Social Security for "allowing this state of affairs to arise".

cerned" that the agency had set to provide an estimate of the a target of only 75 per cent accuracy this year, implying an error rate of one in four.

Despite warnings from the agency's chief executive. Ann Chant, that it may be impossible to secure a 100-per-cent accuracy rate, owing to difficulties in applying the financial formula to assess money owed by absent parents, the committee warns: "Achieving accuracy in maintenance assessments is essential if the agency is to provide a fair and efficient service in the interests of children."

After repeated claims that fathers were being hit with unfair demands and suffering enormous financial strain. Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, made changes to the agency's operations, including a cap on maintenance payments, an appeals system nd taking more account of fathers having remarried and supporting second families.

Mr Lilley was implicitly crit-icised by MPs for not having acted sooner. His officials, the committee said, ought to have established at an earlier stage many mistakes in maintenance assessments.

mittee that setting up the agency was a "high-risk strate-Members of the Commons
Public Accounts Committee, staff and an untried computer

Particular criticism is reserved for the way in which the first CSA chief executive, Ros Hepplewhite, was allowed to resign with six months' salary after a period in which management targets were missed and 40 per cent of assessments contained errors. The agency was also criticised for its inability amount of maintenance that was not collectable.

MPs noted that the Department is to issue a report on what went wrong and on lessons to be learnt; they called for this to be produced urgently.

The report concludes that ac-

count should be taken of the risks run in new projects and it looks to the agency to "continue to show improved results". Andy Farquarson of the Net-

work Against the Child Support Agency, a pressure group of mothers and fathers, said the report confirmed what they had been saying all along, that "the general public has been defrauded by this Government".

Mr Farquarson said: "This is a damning report which vindicates our criticisms of the CSA, that it is bureaucratic, inflexible, inefficient and does not take into account individual circumstances of fathers, mothers and children."

DAILY POEM

Judith with the Head of Holofernes

By Antony Dunn

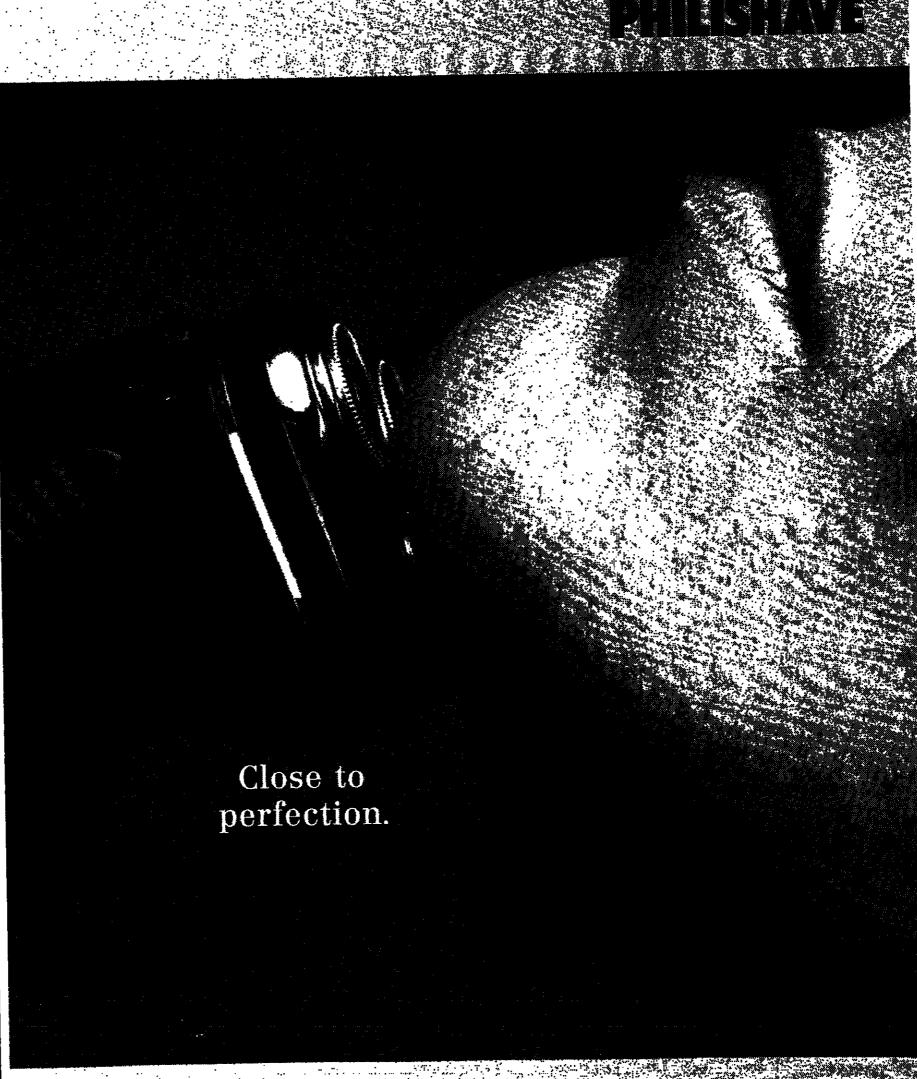
Judith cannot wait for the invention of the camera. Posing for the umpteenth sculpture this week, the chinking of chisels bringing on a migraine, and that red paint in the curpet nagging at her tired eye, she is fast losing her fabled patience.

Besides, she feels daft stunding for sculptors and painters with her ammunition pouch of lipstick, perfume and blade in one hand and a big pineapple in the other – the head of Holofernes is stinking on a stake above the city's proud walls

while the whole paparazi of anists drools shamelessly over flesh, quick and dead. The papers will insist on calling her the Black Wildow, and their readers, of course, don't want to hear that God has been involved always sure to spoil the human angle.

Hard to look triumphant when her triumph is so mistinderstood. Best to daydream, not interpreting pictures of herself chained to railings, or throwing her body beneath Nebuchadnezzar's horse. Patience. Give them breasts and thighs for now. God later.

Antony Dunn, who graduated in English from St Catherine's College, Oxford, this summer, was the winner of the 1995 Sir Roger Newdigate Prize with this poem. Newdigate (1719-1806), MP for Oxford University and alumnus of University College, founded the prize for undergraduate poetry in 1805, since which time Oscar Wilde, John Bayley, John Fuller, James Fenton. John Heath-Stubbs, Andrew Motion and Glyn Maxwell have been among its recipients.

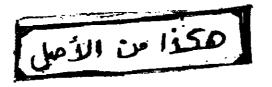


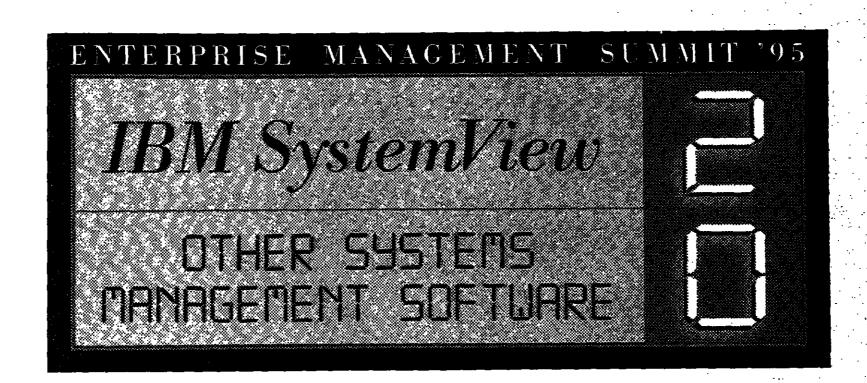


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It wasn't on TV. It didn't fill a stadium. But if you were looking for better ways to manage an information system, it was probably the most important event of the year.

The Enterprise Management Summit is an annual head to head between the industry's top systems management software vendors. The idea? To prove whose software can best handle the sort of problems you face every day. Not a competition for the faint hearted.

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At October's summit, the hands down winner was IBM SystemView. Just as it was the year before.

Each of the products in the competition had to go up against the most gruelling client/server scenarios that the independent experts could conjure up: network congestion, disconnected users, endless mail loops and many other disasters you confront – or guard against – every day.

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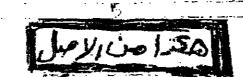
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high level in the treacherous conditions dreamed up by these industry experts, just think how it would perform in your company's network environment.

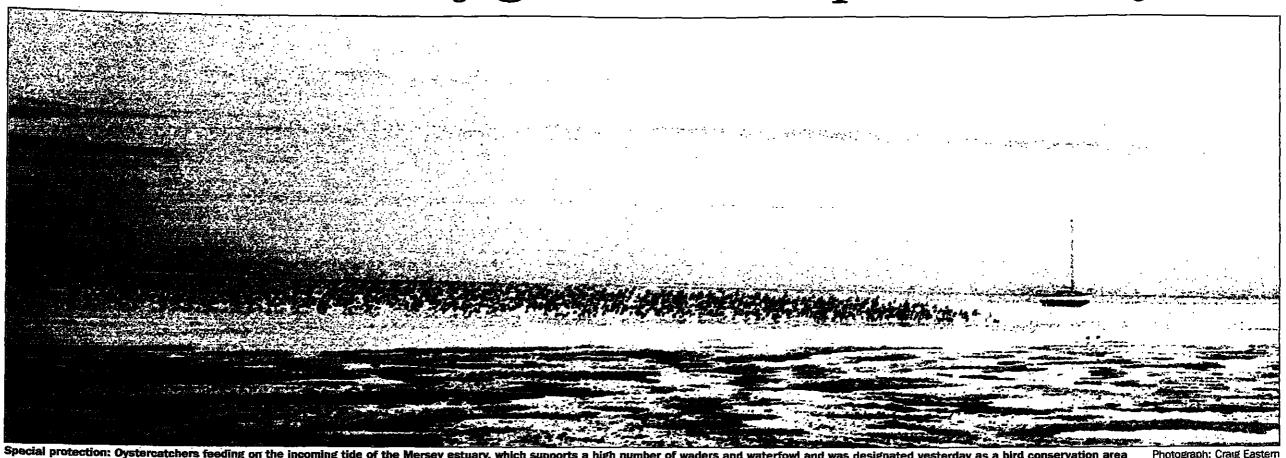
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Conservation treaty gives birds a special Mersey beat



Special protection: Oystercatchers feeding on the incoming tide of the Mersey estuary, which supports a high number of waders and waterfowl and was designated yesterday as a bird conservation area

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

One of Britain's most polluted and industrialised estuaries was yesterday designated as a bird conservation area, protected by international laws.

The Department of the

Environment decreed that the Mersey estuary was now a Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA), under the European Union's birds directive, and a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention, an international habitat conservation treaty.

Twenty square miles of shiping channels, mudilats and saltmarshes are covered by the designation. Development can only happen here if the Government can show there is a strong national need for it.

Pollution levels in the Mersey have been falling for a decade as raw sewage outfalls have been closed and chemical and other industries have reduced their toxic discharges.

Despite the abuse, it has always managed to support high numbers of waders and waterfowl, especially in winter. About 80,000 birds use it at this time

of year, including one-sixth of all the pintails living in Britain. The Mersey was one of the first British estuaries to be proposed for international designation. The Government has taken so long to act partly be-

cause of local fears that the

habitat protection would frus-

trate economic development. Designation seemed incompatible with earlier plans to build a runway at Liverpool Airport into the estuary and to construct a tidal barrage across the river mouth mouth. Both these projects have been shelved. There are now 113 SPAs for

promised to declare 20 a year. Conservationists were delighted, but they are also appalled that the Government intends to allow oil and gas exploration in two other estuaries in the north-west which have SPA and Ramsar status.

Philip Rothwell, head of policy at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: We're delighted at the news about the Mersey. But to allow oil exploration in some of the most important wildlife sites we've got in Britain is spectacularly inappropriate.

Jet punch-up Britons fly home

DECCA AITKENHEAD

Three families arrived back at Gatwick yesterday after being involved in a punch-up on a flight to Los Angeles, which they blamed on the airline's generosity with free drink. The group of 17 returned to Britain under airline security, leaving one person in custody in Minneapolis.

The British and Irish passengers, all related and ranging from men in their sixtles to twoyear-olds, boarded the 747 Northwest Airlines aircraft on Monday for a Christmas holiday. According to an airline spokeswoman, mayhem broke out several hours into the flight,

when crew declined to serve them further free drinks. They had already been

drinking their own duty-free alcohol, and when attendants refused to serve any more, the families deployed their children to steal bottles stashed in the galley. The group became abusive and started throwing food at flight attendants. The crew made every effort to calm them down, including the captain, who came down from the cockpit to try and restore order."

When this failed, three members of the United States Olympic wrestling team also on board joined in, and handcuffed two of the group to their

seats. Handouffs are standard issue on all flights, the spokeswoman said. On landing in Minneapolis,

Minnesota, police and immigration authorities removed the "extremely inebriated" group from the jet, and denied them entry to the US. Michael Purcell. 25, was remanded in custody on charges of assaulting and intimidating a crew member and flight attendant. The famport, and flown back to Gatwick this morning by Northwest Airlines, under a security escort and an alcohol ban. On arrival, there were chaotic scenes as

they were pursued around the

press. Eileen Cash, a grandmother of Kilburn, north-west London, said: "Something happened on the plane. We feel ashamed and embarrassed over it, but we never did anything wrong. They gave us drink on the plane, they shouldn't have."

Her daughter Eileen Connors, also of Kilburn, said: "The man arrested was nothing to do with us. We were just a bit noisy why were they giving out drink? People will get drunk."

This was the families' first flight with Northwest, and the spokeswoman said the airline would be unlikely to carry them

Inquiry clears Monklands

Chief Political Correspondent

An independent inquiry yesterday cleared Monklands council in Strathclyde of damaging allegations of "jobs-for-the-boys" employment practices.

The inquiry report said there was "substance to the perception that political power was exercised by a small number of Coatbridge councillors". The inquiry inspector,

William Nimmo Smith QC, said that much of the trouble had arisen "from the insensitive exercise of power" by Labour councillors

But he found no evidence for

served for Labour members and the families of key Labour officials. The allegations were deeply embarrassing for the Labour leadership as the town was the constituency of the party's late leader. John Smith.

The charges of nepotism had been used by Conscrvative MPs to deflect criticism of Westminster City Council, but yesterday, Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, announced that the council had complied with the law

> requiring authorities to make appointments on merit. The inquiry report said the involvement of councillors in the

appointment of staff had given "apparent substance" to the allegations of nepotism. But he said procedures since April last year had ended that problem, and there was no evidence of nepotism in any appointments since 1990. Mr Forsyth said no further action was required by him.

The report came as a relief to Labour, Claims of a "Monklands" Mafia" among the ruling Labour group on the district council erupted in an acrimonious by-election campaign last year af-ter the death of Mr Smith.

During the compaign, a former Scottish Office minister. Allan Stewart, claimed some appointments were influenced by

religious bias. But Mr Nimmo Smith found no evidence to support any allegation of religious bias in any appointment to employment with the council.

The report was hailed as a vin-

dication of Labour's demand two years ago for an inquiry by George Robertson, the party's spokesman on Scottish affairs. Labour's national executive committee will be considering its own report on the allegations.

While there are strong criticisms in the report of councillors and council procedures. . . the wilder allegations of minis-ters and David Shaw [Tory MP for Dover) have been firmly rejected." Mr Robertson said.

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First prize Z-D9300M Midi Hi-Fi System LCX-500 Micro Hi-Fi System HV-FX77 VCR

HV-FX77 VCR

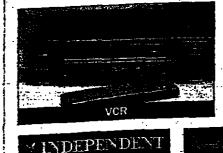
XP-R600 Personal CD Player NSX-999 Mini Hi-Fi System HS-RX848 Personal Stereo Tape Model

Third Prize LCX-500 Micro Hi-Fi System HS-RX848 Personal Stereo Tape Model HV-FX77 VCR

Fourth prize LCX-500 Micro Hi-Fi System HY-FX77 VCR

LCX-500 Micro Hi-Fi System XP-R600 Personal CD Player

LCX-500 Micro Hi-Fi System



These great Aiwa prizes take home entertainment to new heights of enjoyment. Here is a brief description of each component prize.

The Z-D9300M Midl Hi-Fi System incorporates a Dolby Pro Logic speaker system and 5-CD auto changer. It has five speakers with ample power output. 3-band tuner, graphic equaliser, double auto-reverse cassette deck and beltdrive automatic tumtable.

The compact size of the LCX-500 Micro Hi-Fi System belies the quality of its sound. This versatile system comprises 10W+10W amplifier, 3-band tuner, top-loading CD player, cassette deck and speakers. The HV-FX77 VCR is packed with fea-

tures that make recording and playing so simple that even adults can do it. It has four heads for increased picture clarity, VideoPlus for ease of programming and a one-month, six event timer programme.

For music on the move, the lightweight XP-R600 Personal CD Plaver offers great CD sound plus a digital synthesiser tuner with 30 pre-set bands.

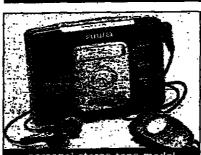
The NSX-999 Mini Hi-Fi System is built around a powerful 150W+150W amplifier linked to a tuner, 3-CD auto changer CD player, and a double autoreverse cassette deck. The speaker system features 3-way bass reflex.

The HS-RX848 Personal Stereo Tape Model offers full remote control with a digital tuner and one-key joystick oper-

How To Enter: To be in with a chance of winning one of the prize packages listed above, you must collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven that we are printing. Today we give you Token Five. The entry form, which we published

esterday, will be reprinted in Saturday's Independent. Rules as previously pub-





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D-DAY IN BOSNIA

Nato takes a step into the unknown

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

About 3,500 British soldiers and a similar number of French troops are digging in for a fourth Bosnian winter as the Nato Implementation Force (1-For) takes over the military peace-keeping operations from the UN Protection Force, Another 10,000 British, 7,000 French and 20,000 Americans are on their way. While it is a new venture for the Americans. this winter will be different also for the British and French.

From yesterday- D-Day in the timetable drawn up at Davton - if their freedom of movement is impeded, if local

factions contest their authority arrangements, with peace-keeptroops may open fire with weapons which the locals have. Nato will be implementing an not yet seen, including fill-ton US Abrums and British Challenger tanks, and self-propelled guns able to score a first-round hit at 15 miles.

The Nato operation Joint Endeavour and its British component Resolute should be much simpler than the complex and chaotic task undertaken by the UN. It will, nevertheless, be without precedent in peace-keeping history. Most "traditional" peace-keeping missions, like those in Coprus, the Middle East and Cambodia, have been interim

or violate the coasefire. Nato ers holding a line while negotiations continue. In Bosnia, agreed peace. Preparation for elections,

refugees, and humanitarian aid will not be Nato's concern, although the civilians charged with these tasks will probably call on Nato troops for escorts. The work of the other organisations is being co-ordinated by Swedens' former prime minister. Carl Bildt, known as the "Higher Representative" who received his commission from the Security Council but represents the EU and the Organisation for Security and o-operation in Europe as well.

For Nato, everything should be relatively simple. The only uncertainty should be the interpretation of agreed lines on the ground: the border between the Muslim-Croat and Serb entities in Bosnia and the demilitarised zone stretching for

The implementation of an agreed peace poses a dilemma. If one side interprets the agreement differently. Nato will find itself in the business of "enforcement" - intervention to impose a solution. It isequipped to "enforce" a view, but it may have to think on its feet to formulate it. Within a context of "implementation" there may be islands of "enforcement".

two kilometres on either side.

Nato planners have the will be returned to the Serbs. process of deployment, implementation and transition to peace laid out on a flow chart, but admit the process is "extremely fluid", not least because of the weather. Yesterday authority was transferred from the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) to I-For and joint military

commissions comprising the warring factions were set up under Nato chairmanship to oversee mapping of hundreds of miles of demarcation line which follow the ceasefire line reached at the end of hostilities in October, with a few exceptions.

A 700sq-mile area, known as the "egg", around Mrkonjic Grad, overrun by Croat forces,

The area north of Sarajevo will be ceded to the Muslim-Croat federation, as will a corridor from Muslim territory south of Sarajevo to the former pocket of Gorazde.

The "egg" is pretty well deserted, apart from Croat troops, and although it is the biggest area to be transferred, the British troops who will be responsible do not expect too much of a problem. The Serbs who lived there all fled, and no Croat or Muslim civilians have attempted to settle there.

The situation around Sarajevo, where Serbs lived cheekby-jowl with Croats and Muslims, is far more sensitive. troops, 2000 UN civil police are being deployed to give confidence to the local civilians. Positions on the ceasefire line around Sarajevo will be transferred or vacated by next

Wednesday.

The next and most difficult milestone is "D plus 30" around 18 January when the former warring factions have to have released prisoners and vacated the zone of separation between the "entities". All mined areas must be marked. Civilian groups will have to be disarmed and "non-local forces" - the mujahedin, about half of whom are Islamic ex-

In addition to 60,000 Nato must have withdrawn. These are probably Nato's biggest con-cern. By then, I-Fer should have secured territors to be transferred.

Nato must ensure such areas are "cleared" of local troops by D plus 45 - the beginning of February. Then, on D plus 90. around 18 March, the new owners will occupy the areas trans-

terred. Finally, on D plus 120, a month later, local forces must have been moved to holding areas. Any forces outside those areas must be demobilised, and the two "entities" - mini-states within Bosnia - must provide details on the strength and de-

British enter Serb-held territory

EMMA DALY wrupa. Bosnia

The silhouetted shape of a field gun slung below a Royal Navy Sea King, camouflaged with tiger stripes painted over UN white, flying past the snowy mountains on a sunny winter's day in western Bosnia: the Bosnian Croat militia bowing to reality and allowing convoys to pass its check-points unchallenged: most of all, the sight of a Serb soldier handing a glass of home-made brandy to the crew of a Warrior.

A mood of optimism and determination, a sense that perhaps this war is ending, fired the start of "Operation Resolute", the British contribution to Nato's peace implementation mission in Bosnia, which began at Ham yesterday in Sarajeyo with the transfer of authority from the UN to the Western Alliance. The Nato mission began amid confusion after log blocked the arrival of the US Nato force commander, Admiral Leighton Smith. The ceremony was delayed for four hours leaving frustrated European officers complaining bitterly about a US desire to have a moment of glory.

flag was raised, 140 troops from B Squadron Battlegroup, the Light Dragoons, crossed the the Serb stronghold for so long a no-go area to Western force. "Bit of a proud moment," said Trooper Paul Stewart, whose Scimitar armoured vehicle was first to cross the line. Mira Vucie waved from her balcony as the troops rolled in, then ran downstairs to chat, "I think everything is going to be all right," she said, "We've had enough of war, I hope our children will be able to play and grow up in freedom."

A neighbour, Srdjan Vidovic. inquired whether the British were allowed to drink; receiving an enthusiastic reply, he

filled with grape brandy and handed it around. "It should be peace, at last," he said.

His optimism - or desperate desire - was echoed by Serb soldiers at "Black Dog", who will share control of the checkpoint with the 1st Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers, "We feel good - this is the end of the war." said Petar, one of a group of young soldiers watching as the Fusiliers unravelled razor wire around the check-point.

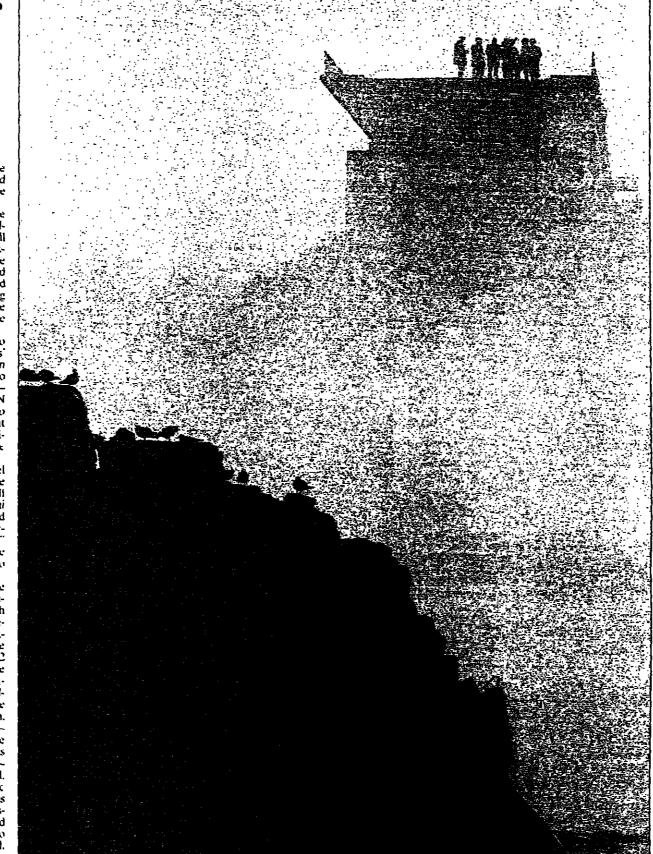
The Serb welcome was no surprise; one of the Britons' tasks is to supervise the return of Mrkonjie Grad and Sipovo to Serb control. The British unlike their lightly armed UN predecessors - are taking no chances: three 105mm light howitzers were flown by helicopter to a position close to the front-line, just in case.

Major-General Michael Jackson, commander of the British Nato sector (which will include Canadian and Pakistani troops), visited the new sites and praised the operation. "Everything is going extremely well, he said. "I very much hope there'll be no reason or need to use force at all."

The Light Dragoons were Three hours after the Nato due to spend last night in Krupa patrolling the road, which winds through a steep gorge be-side the River Vrbas, and makfront line at Brenica (renamed ing their presence felt before "Black Dog" by the British) and pushing further north. A T-72 drove on to the village of Kru-pa, 13km south of Banja Luka. in Krupa, but in a non-threatening manner, and the Serb soldiers moved mines from the road as requested by the British.

"Operation Resolute Rat" as it is known here because the 4th Armoured Brigade claims descent from the Desert Rats ~ went even better than hoped. but the British know there are 364 days of potential problems ahead. "We have a clear mission, which is to bring to an end three years of wreiched war to an end," General Jackson said.

He must hope the warring parties do not misinterpret the name of their mission: "rat" in Serbo-Croat means "war".



A bridge too far: A group of US soldiers from Tuzia air base inspect a destroyed bridge on the Bosnian side of the Sava River near Zupanja in north-eastern Croatia

tremists from outside Bosnia - ployment of their forces. Peacemaker balanced force * with intellect

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

Lieutenant General Rupert Smith, the British general who has commanded the UN in Bosnia for the past year, yesterday left Sarajevo, his mission accomplished with distinction. From commanding 20,000 UN troops in Bosnia, he moves on to command 17,000 British troops in Northern Ireland. Peace had come to Bosnia, and it owed a lot more to Lt-Gen Smith than he would admit.

Lt-Gen Smith's philosophy in the Guif and Bosnian wars mirrored that of Clausewitz: "the maximum use of violence is in no way incompatible with the si-multaneous use of the intellect." Unlike his predecessor in Bosnia. Sir Michael Rose, Lt-Gen Smith never went to university. He went from Sandhurst into the Parachute Regiment, known for its philosophy of violence and aggression, com-bined with cunning. But he approached his subject with rare "clarity of vision", one UN of-

ficial told Reuter on Tuesday His account of the way his division attacked in the Gulf war was terrifying in its focus. "I was manning equipment, not equipping men. Men were a liability - casualties waiting to hap-pen." He used a First World War analogy: the enemy forces were to be broken up, becom-ing "easily digestible" for his ar-

moured brigades. Unlike Gen Rose, he never irted the media openly. In the Gulf and Bosnia he avoided going "on the record", but instead cultivated an understanding with the media, trusting them with knowledge equivalent to that of his junior officers. It was an approach that worked. Lt-Gen Smith's clarity of vi-

sion probably owed much to his role in developing the British Army's intellectual approach to operations. He was instrumental in setting up the High-er Command and Staff Course, to teach potential generals how to fight big battles, an area where the British trailed behind the Americans and Russians.

When he arrived in Bosnia last January, Lt-Gen Smith realised that the UN's position, with lightly armed or unarmed forces scattered widely, was inconsistent with any attempt to be more robust. 'He put the choice starkly either withdraw peace-keepers or change the UN mandate ... so force can be used to attain the mission's goals", the official said.

The UN special envoy, Yasushi Akashi, and the UN Commander in all former Yugoslavia, Gen Bernard Janvier, opposed some of his recommendations. In May, Nato launched small-scale air attacks on Bosnian Serb targets. The Serbs grabbed UN peace-keep-ers as hostages, in reprisal.



Smith: Clarity of vision

After the Bosnian Serbs overran the Muslim enclaves in Srebrenica and Zepa in July, Lt-Gen Smith got all the peacekeepers out of danger and prepared for the Serb "provo cation". That came with the market massacre in Saraievo in August after which the Serbs were "hammered", the UN official said.

Lt-Gen Smith could now move to "peace enforcement" The Nato air strikes that followed not only disabled Bosuian Serb air defences but crippled their command and control, destroying their advantage and swinging events in favour of the Croats and Muslims. The Bosnian Serb forces broke. In the end Lt-Gen Smith achieved peace, appropriately,

through military victory.

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> Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Variable Rate 7,99% per annum.

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War is over but the suffering goes on

As Christmas approaches, the *Independent* is asking readers to support four charities working to help child victims of the wars in former Yugoslavia. Though the fighting has ended and a peace deal has been signed, the suffering goes on. And the children of Bosnia

have suffered particularly hard. So far, the Independent appeal has raised more than £77,000 since it was faunched in November and cash continues to pour in for each of the four

Save the Children is focusing its efforts on children who have been separated from their families, counselling and reuniting them.

The Red Cross is running the largest humanitarian operation in the region, looking after refugee camps and linking relatives and friends through its coupon (below).



famous messaging network. War Child plans to build a £2.5m music therapy centre in Mostar, and to send urgentlyneeded prosthetics to wounded children in the Tuzla area. Child Advocacy Interna-

tional aims to bring up to 100 sick children to Britain for treatment they could not obtain at home.

Please make your cheques or postal orders payable to the charity of your choice and send them to us with the completed

¾ INDEPENDENT CHILDREN OF WAR APPEAL would like to make a donation to help children in Former Yugoslavia.

I enclose a cheque/postal order/CAV/CAF card for £ ... payable to one of the following chartnes

Child Advocacy International British Red Cross Former Yugo

Please post your donation(s) to: The Independent Children of War Appeal c/c the Independent, PO Box 4011, London E14 5BB.

From Vietnam to Sarajevo The officer now commanding the Nato implementation force (I-For) in land-bound Bosnia is flew 280 combat missions over Vietnam. He holds two Distinguished Flying Crosses and

an admiral and a navy pilot. Admiral Leighton Smith, United States Navy, will be move to his base in Sarajevo from Naples, where he has been commanding Nato's forces in southern Europe since April 1994, writes Christopher Bellamy.

Nato says putting the admiral

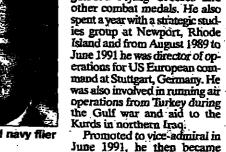
in Sarajevo makes sense be-cause of the complexity of the terrain and the political sensitivity of the Bosnian capital. But some sources said yes-terday they felt the US wanted

to have the commander in Sarajevo, which will be the focus of political and media attention, so that his subordinate, the British



commander of the Nato Rapid Reaction Corps, did not get all the limelight.

The soft-spoken southerner from Alabama qualified as a navy pilot in January 1964 and



operations from Turkey during the Gulf war and aid to the Kurds in northern Iraq.
Promoted to vice-admiral in
June 1991, he then became commander of US Naval Forces Europe and Nato's commanderin-chief southern Europe. He was in overall command of

Nato air strikes against the

Briton takes over command

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, 51, took over yesterday as the general commanding international forces in Bosnia, writes Christopher Bellamy, As commander of the Nato

Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), he has in effect replaced the former UN commander, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, although he will report to US Admiral Leighton Smith, who will also be based in

Sarajevo. General Walker is the second British general to command the Nato Rapid Reaction Corps, which was set up in to react to contingencies like Bosnia. The "Ark", as it is known, can draw on up to 10 Nato divisions although only two or three would be chosen for any specific



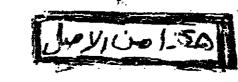
Walker: Three divisions

task. In Bosnia, General Walker's "Ark" has three divisions, each 20,000 strong, under its command, one US-led, one British and one French. Each division is itself multinational:

brigades, one British and one Canadian, for example. The ARRC headquarters comprises about 2,000 staff, mostly British, who will be based in Sarajevo. General Walker was born in

what was then Southern Rhodesia. He taught at a preparatory school for 18 months before attending Sandhurst. In 1966 he was commissioned into the Royal Anglian Regiment.

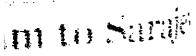
He has served as an infantry officer in Northern Ireland and Cyprus. He is a qualified pilot and wears the wings of the Army Air Corps, of which he is the Colonel Commandant. He has spent most of his career in Germany, but was Military Assistant to the Chief of the Gen-



the British will include two eral Staff from 1982 to 1985.

Marin District





Walesa's red spy scare throws Poles into turmoil

ADRIAN BRIDGE

Central Europe Correspondent

Not for the first time in his colourful career, Poland's outgoing President Lech Walesa yesterday threw the country into turmoil after claiming to have evidence of a "threat to state security", apparently in the form of the Prime Minister, Jozef Oleksy,

Mr Walesa, due to hand over power to a former Communist, Aleksander Kwasniewski, on Saturday, refused to spell out the nature of the allegations in detail. But unnamed sources cited by Polish media said they concerned long-standing contacts between Mr Oleksy and

foreign espionage agents.

Mr Oleksy, himself a former
Communist, described the allegations as a "dirty provoca-tion", suggesting Mr Walesa was having difficulty accepting his defeat at the hands of Mr Kwasniewski in last month's presidential election.

An emergency cabinet meeting convened to consider Mr Walesa's evidence ruled that it had not proved the security of the state was endangered. The President, present at the meeting, dissented from its view.

Most Poles were dumbfounded by the allegations. Many saw Mr Walesa's move as a last-ditch attempt to use the authority of his office to dis-credit his former Communist political opponents and launch a new career as leader of the opposition

"It is difficult not to see this as a spoiling tactic," a Western diplomatic source said. "It certainly appears to have been timed to make life difficult for

the incoming President."
Yesterday's uproar followed a late-night meeting at the presidential palace on Tuesday to which the speakers of both houses of parliament and the country's 10p legal authorities had been invited. Andrzej Milczanowski, the Interior Ministhe meeting with confidential documents which allegedly re-vealed the security threat and incriminated Mr Oleksy. Mr Milczanowski reported he had presented the documents to

the senior military prosecutor. With hard facts in short supply, the Polish media ran wild with rumour, Mr Oleksy was alleged to have had contacts with Soviet and Russian spies from 1983 until he took office earlier this year. Others suggested he had been guilty of laundering Communist Party money. Some reported the existence of videos showing him playing tennis with Soviet agents.

Mr Ołeksy, who along with Mr Kwasniewski was not invited to the Tuesday meeting, called for an immediate session of the National Defence Committee to consider the evidence. He was sharply critical of Mr Walesa. "What has been done demonstrates that state security may be threatened - but by those who cannot leave their posts in a dignified fashion," Mr Oleksy said. Mr Walesa's narrow defeat to

Mr Kwasniewski last month means that, in addition to the government, Poland's former Communists will now control the presidency. But the outgoing President, who once led the Solidarity trade union that toppled Communism, has refused to take his defeat lying down.

Shortly after the election, in an attempt to have the result annulled, more than 500,000 supporters filed protests with the Supreme Court complaining Mr Kwasniewski had lied about his academic qualifications during the campaign.

Mr Walesa has begun travel-

ling the country to unite Poland's fractured right before parliamentary elections in 1997. For "moral and political" reasons, Mr Walesa will not attend Saturday's swearing-in ceremony of a man he describes as belonging to a "Red Spider Web", into which he believes the



Waltzing back in time: Anthony Hopkins, as Richard Nixon, and Joan Allen, as Pat, in a scene from Oliver Stone's new film

Nixon refuses to lay down and die

RUPERT CORNWELL

Washington He may not be the Christmas

present most Americans would ask for. But, for the umpteenth time in a career now stretching beyond the grave, Richard Nixon is back. Turn which way you will this festive season: there is no escaping the disgraced, reviled, but endlessly fascinating 37th President. In no particular order, he is

1) protagonist of a new Oliver Stone epic that promises to be both box office smash and likely Academy Awards nominee; 2) co-star of a praised made-for-TV film Kissinger and Nixon dealing with the wind-down of the Vietnam War: 3) the brooding presence behind 50,000 pages of papers from the Nixon

the National Archives: and 4) a ghost increasingly summoned by his Republican party in the Whitewater probe, 1995's convoluted imitation of the Watergate scandal that brought down Nixon 20 years ago.

Yesterday, with the opening of Mr Stone's film Nixon, it was the big screen Tricky Dick who was making the headlines and Anthony Hopkins' remarkable portrayal of him.

Astonishingly, the treatment of Nixon by a director whose obsession with dark and farfetched plots produced the nonsensical JFK, is almost evenhanded. No plotter was darker than Richard Nixon. Yet so turbulent, extraordinary was his story that Mr Stone has been reduced to a relative respect for the facts and something akin to

Of course there are embellishments. Having let conspiraev theory run riot in JFK, he cannot resist bringing Nixon in on the alleged plan to assassinate Fidel Castro, which then metamorphoses into the presumed plot to kill Kennedy. Images of the president as a pill-swallowing, whisky-swilling neurotic as well as wrenching scenes from the Nixon marriage owe more to Mr Stone's imagination than any record.

Not surprisingly the Nixon family has already condemned the film as "erroneous and malicious...character assassination," with his daughters Tricia and Julic accusing Mr Stone of deliberately waiting until their parents were dead to produce a picture of the Nixons' private life "calculated solely to defame

The staunchest defenders of cinematic licence will concede that Mr Hopkins doesn't look like Nixon, and flunks the trademark rasping baritone voice. But the real Nixon is stunningly conveyed: Nixon the far-seeing statesman. Nixon the ruthless politician, the Nixon of few physical graces, cold and distant, fraught with insecurity and paranoia and obsessed by the Kennedys. But if Nixon is a figure of the

past, cross-references to the present are never far away, The documents from the National Archives, for instance, show Bob Dole, then Republican party chairman, asking Mr Nixon for favours and assuring him in early 1973 that outside Washington, Watergate was no hig deal. Today of course, Mr

#Dixons

Nixon's old job next year. And then there's Whitewater Once again the White House is stonewalling congressional demands for confidential material which could throw light on a scandal. This time a Democratic president invokes executive privilege in a battle which may. like the Watergate tapes, only be settled in court, "Imagine Mr Nixon trying to tell the Congress we're not going to hand them over," fulminates one Senator who seeks the notes in question.

wrong in Whitewater. The Nixon boom is not over. More films will be mined from the rich seams of his character. while only 63 hours of the 3.700 hours of his secret Oval Office tapes have been released, and only a fraction of the Nixon ad-

"It's wrong in Watergate, it's

Judges tie families together for Xmas

DAVID USBORNE New York

Christmas may be a time for parents to get closer to their teenage and perhaps rebellious children, but for two families in the United States the sentiment has been taken a bit far. By order of the courts, the parents have been literally chained to their offspring for the holiday season.

With American voters demanding ever-more draconian punishment for criminals. chain-gangs have already been re-introduced in several states for prison inmates. Now judges are applying the principle to teenage offenders, ordering them shackled to their parents at home.

The pioneer of this novel form of punishment, apparently designed to hurt the parents as much as the children, is Judge Wayne Creech, of Charleston, South Carolina. Last week, he required that 15year-old Tonya Kline, charged with burglary, truancy and theft, be shackled to her mother, Deborah Harter, for a month pending trial next month.

Tonya musi wear a prison-issue belt fitted with a two-foot chain attached likewise to Mrs Harter. The two sleep next to each other on a sofa-bed in their living room. Whenever Tonva leaves the house - even to attend school - mother goes too. Tonya is only let loose to visit the lavatory and take a shower, but then only in a bathroom without windows.

Mrs Harter, who faces 30 days in jail if she lets go of her daughter, found the ruling a bit surprising, "When he told the fellas to get the shackles. I was kind of shocked," she said. This week, the judge relented slightly, ruling that Tonya's step-father can share in the shackling duty. Now a judge, in the North

Carolina town of Roxboro, has ruled that two teenagers accused of setting fire to a hypermarket he shackled to their parents pending their return to court on 8 January. Tonya does not seem too disturbed, "It's not as bad as it seems," she said, "It's taught me a lesson. It's already straight-

Paris mends fences with Algiers

MARY DEJEVSKY

The chairman of the French parliament, Philippe Séguin, paid a flying visit to Algiers yes-terday at the behest of President Jacques Chirac in a dramatic bid by France to end the two month stand-off in relations with

Algeria. The visit, kept secret until Mr Séguin's plane had landed safe-iy in Algiers in mid-morning, was the first official contact be-tween France and Algeria since Liamine Zeroual's convincing victory in the 16 November presidential election.

While the Elysée insisted throughout the day that the vis-it was a standard parliamentary visit made at the invitation of two countries should "talk to

meet Mr Zeroual, confirming afterwards that he had conveyed a message from President

In a clear sign of the visit's sensitivity, the Elysée denied that Mr Séguin was the bearer of any "official" message. "If the visit is a prelude to an improvement in French-Algerian relations that would be a good thing, but it is mainly a parliamentary visit of which the president has been informed."

Mr Seguin gave no details either of the contents of any message or of the substance of Mr Seguin's Algerian counter- each other, listen to each oth-

from routine. Within an hour of turn to Paris in the early open conflict after a planned arrival. Mr Séguin was taken to evening, Mr Séguin - believed meeting between Mr Chirac evening, Mr Séguin - believed to be carrying a return message from Mr Zeroual - was taken straight to Mr Chirac.

Until yesterday France had had no official contact with Algeria since October, aside from an exchange of formal congratulations after Mr Zeroual's election victory. French officials were believed to have been taken aback less by Mr Zer-oual's victory than by the size of the turn-out, which gave the election an unanticipated legitimacy. The turn-out was achieved despite terrorist threats by Islamic fundamentalist groups which boycotted the election

On 22 October, the difficult

part, it was clear that it was far er and co-operate". On his re- and Algeria had erupted into and Mr Zeroual during the UN General Assembly in New York was called off at the last moment.

> Mr Chirac had agreed to the meeting - Algeria claimed that it had been fixed at France's request - in the face of strong opposition in France, where some saw it as indicating French support for Mr Zeroual (and therefore interfering in the election).

The cancellation - because, according to Mr Chirac, Mr Zeroual had insisted on the presence of television cameras at what was agreed as a strictly private occasion - was taken amiss by the Algerians, who accused France of "interfering in relationship between France Algeria's internal affairs".

Defiant Yeltsin says election gives 'no reason for concern'

PHIL REEVES Moscow

As smoke cleared from the vast battleground of the Russian parliamentary election and cries of foul sounded from several of the losing camps, Boris Yeitsin vesterday spoke publicly for the first time about the resuits, insisting that he would not change the course of reforms.

We have no reason for concern or to regard the election as a tragedy," the President said at the sanatorium outside Moscow where he is both recovering from a heart attack and digesting one of the less pleasant pills he has had to swallow of late - the Communists' impressive victory.

"I'm sure that the majority of Russians don't stand for Com-munism. Mr Yeltsin said, adding that he could work with the new Communist-dominated legislature: in other coun-tries where there are large Communist groups in parlia-ment they find ways of interaction and normal democratic

But, although the election was not an outright disaster for the Yeltsin government, the strong support for the Communists and - to a lesser extent



(left) and the Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev Democratic Party, was a reminder of the scale of resentment over Russia's reforms.

act. This will probably involve sacking some of his team and bringing in newcomers more in

It also included some sober-ing details for the Kremlin - the surprising performance, for ex-

ample, of the hardline Sovietstyle communist group, Working Russia, headed by Viktor Anpilov, which was running at 4.6 per cent yesterday. less that 0.5 per cent below the minimum needed to qualify for seats in the State Duma, or lower house.

Mr Yeltsin has much to do if he, or his chosen successor, is to revive his fortunes in time for the presidential election in June, so - despite his attempts munus and attempts at a brave face - he will have to

In the firing line: the Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev,

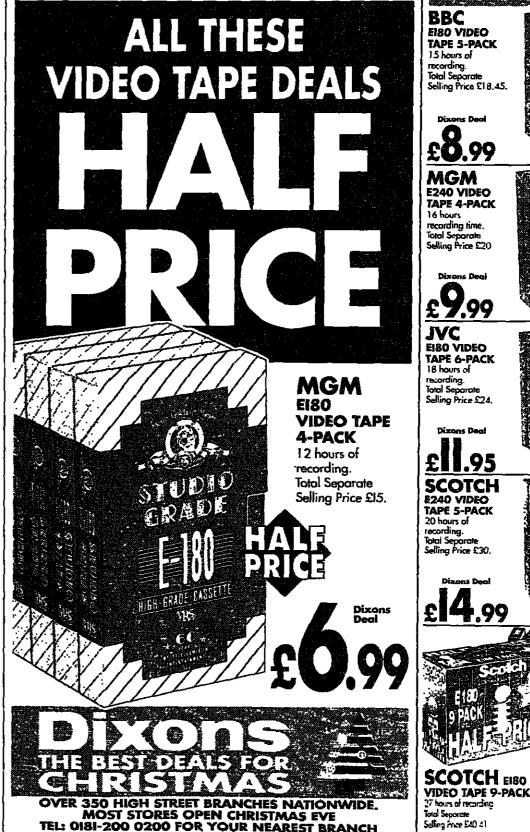
bringing in newcomers more in tune with his ill-tempered electorate, although he will have dif-ficulty recruiting Communists. The unpopular Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, is expected to depart soon. Under new management, Russia's foreign ministry can be expected to continue its drift in an anti-Western direction (at least, in public). Other changes - in-

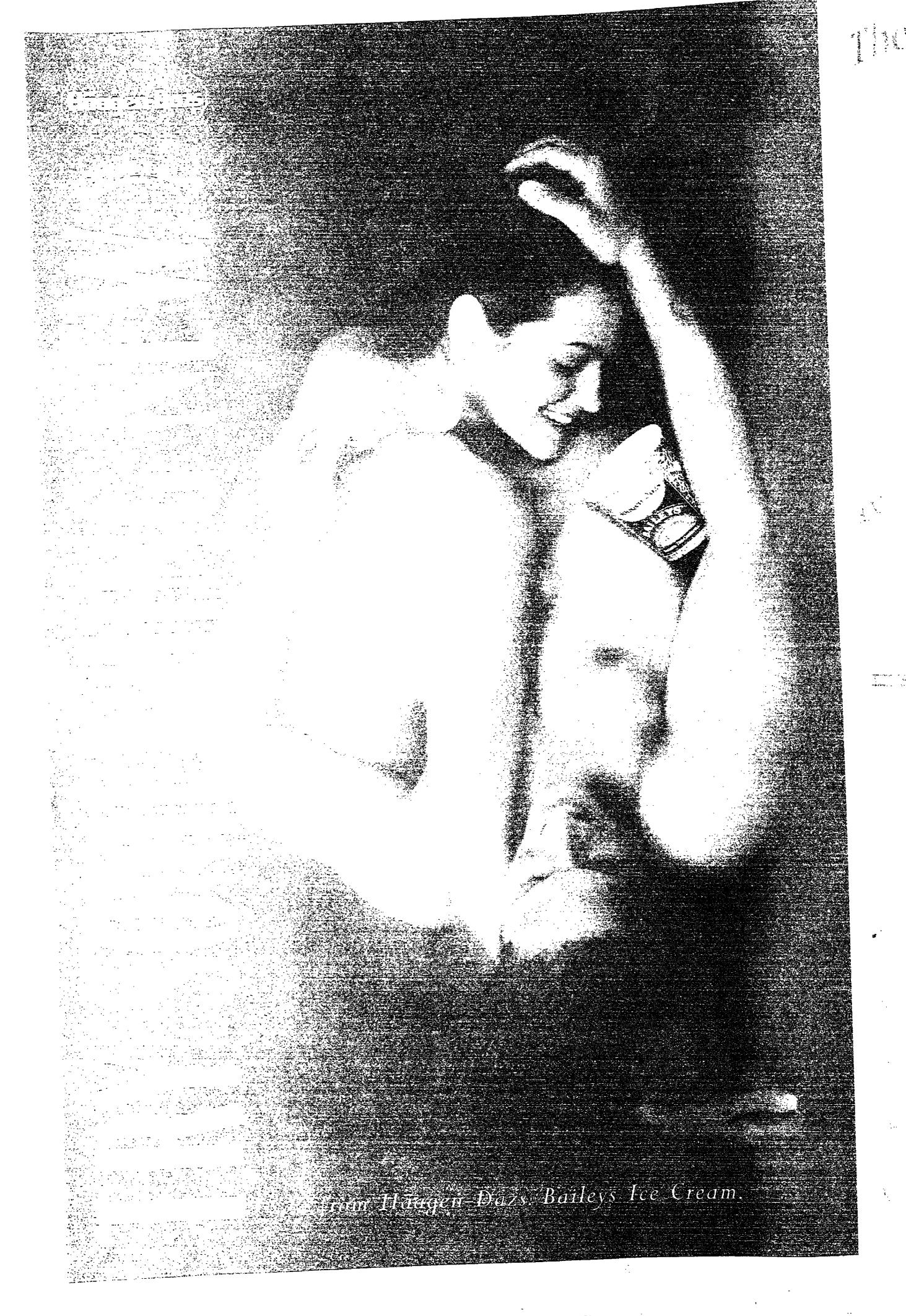
cluding the possible firing of the Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev - are expected in the new year, probably in February, when Mr Yeltsin is due to announce whether he will run for

have proclaimed the election as broadly fair, several candidates allege fraud. Retired General Alexander Lebed, whose na-tionalist Congress of Russian Communities fared unexpectedly badly (4.1 per cent), said there had been "terrible trickery", which he would investigate. The general is a possible

candidate for the presidential race, a bid which may prompt him to dump his party (and with it, his fractious colleague, Yuri Skokov) and set up a new one. Similar complaints came from the former Vice-President, Alexander Rutskoi, whose Derzhava group also slumped. Although such complaints smack of sour grapes, they gained credibility from the fact that the count was, astonishingly, still grinding on yesterday. Russians have also not forgotten the whiff of skulduggery that surrounded the 1993 referendum on the constitution. But those in search of evi-

dence of glaring fraud need only look as far as Chechnya, where Russian troops yesterday launched fresh heavy attacks on Gudermes, seized last week by rebels. Election officials have proclaimed the Moscow-backed leader, Doku Zavgayev, as the overwhelming victor.





[wy/00/200]

Murder

video

grips

Israelis

In the Prime Minister's office it

was difficult to find a chair to

sit on. In the streets of

Jerusalem cars disappeared and

shops shut. Some 83 per cent of

Israelis watching television on

Tuesday night saw the videotape

of the murder of Yitzhak Ru-

bin, filmed by Roni Kempler

from the roof of a shop over-looking the site of the

Shimon Peres, the new Prime

Minister, was reported to have

watched himself pass within

feet of the assassin with "eves

assassination.

PATRICK COCKBURN

The Arafat trail has many turnings

The deal on the West Bank has left unfinished business, says Robert Fisk

Kiryat Arba — The new road for Jewish settlers ran like a black thread over the hills between Hebron and Jerusalem, new tarmac that glistened in the cold rain. But Naim of Gaza, for that is how he identified himself, not wanting to grace Israeli occupation with his family name, was not worried. "The road is for the settlers of Kiryat Arba but Arafat says it's only for five years," he said, his Israeli employer standing beside him, listening intently to our conversation. "Mr Arafat says this is only for a transitional period. Of course I trust him."

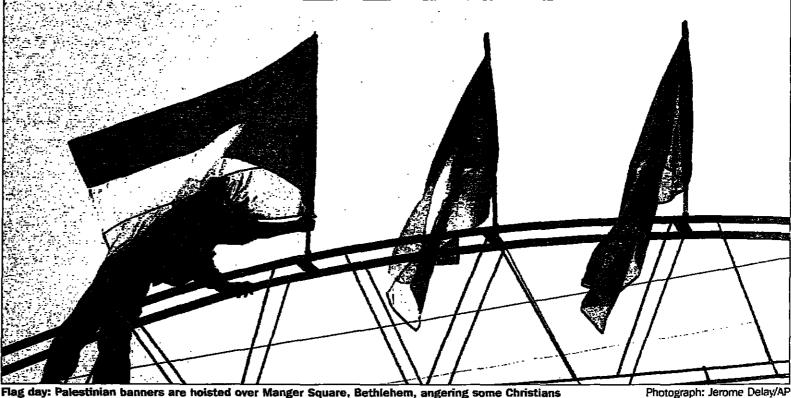
But look, we said, look at the road, constructed on crushed stone, three inches of tarmac with new safety barriers and elegant road signs in Hebrew. This must cost millions; anyone who believes this is built for only five years must be financially insane or a liar. Here is a new highway linking the settlers of Kiryat Arba outside Hebron to the "eternal and unified capital of Israel" that will last 20 years or more. Naim of Gaza smiled. He trusted Mr Arafat, he said. And his Israeli employer, huddling in his rain cape, nodded

his agreement. Well, maybe Naim of Gaza is right. After all, only half an hour earlier two Israeli taxi-drivers outside the King David Hotel in Israeli West Jerusalem had pointedly refused to drive me to Arab East Jerusalem. So much, I thought at the time, for the "eternal and unified" capital of Israel. But those "settler roads" - to allow settlers on confiscated Arab land to drive to Jerusalem to take the life of any other man.

without contact with Palestinians - are snaking across the landscape of Yasser Arafat's "Palestine", bisecting and tri-secting his land like a salami Built, of course, by Palestinians such as Naim of Gaza.

And in the harder towns, such as Hebron, the reality of these roads that chop the West Bank into pieces means more than the honeyed words of Western diplomats and satellite television reporters. "We will have only cantons," Abdul-Haj, a grocer of Hebron complained to me an hour later. "Arafat will be the mukhtar of the cantons. You have to understand that he is not going to help us. He only seeks power and for this he will work for the Israelis. I remember what Golda Meir said to Sadat when he visited Jerusalem. She said that the government of any state should work for its people. And this is our problem because our Arab leaders don't work for their people - only for power. The Israelis work for their people. This is why the Israelis are strong and we are weak; which is why we must go back to Islam."

Across the windy hill behind Abdul-Haj of Hebron, David of Kiryat Arba, immensely tall, 22 years old, a Jewish student at Shiloh waiting for an Eged bus, was more ambiguous, armed with the arguments that Arab guerrilla leaders used to deploy in front of Western journalists 15 years ago. "I think what Rabin did was wrong - but it was wrong that he should be killed. Because it is wrong for any man



Flag day: Palestinian banners are hoisted over Manger Square, Bethlehem, angering some Christians

I do not believe in this peace imagination. Perhaps all funn one way: in a coffin. I believe in the Bible. This land was given to us."

Like a tape cassette, David moved through the Biblical quotations. His parents had moved from Morocco to Kiryat Arba, believing that God had given Judea and Samaria to the Jews. He captured the very spirit of the old men of the Palestinian revolution whom I used to meet in Beirut in the late 1970s: commitment without David's direction - "we have no

process. I will only leave here damentalism should be defined in this way, the integrity of their quarrel undefiled by doubt. But then up walked Eilan of Eilat - and the anonymity of all family names in this report are at the specific request of their Arab and Jewish owners - who was an Arabic-speaking Israeli soldier of 20 on joint-Israeli-Palestin-

ian patrols in the West Bank. "Whatever they tell you," he said - and here he nodded in business in Bethlehem or Tulkarem or Shkheim (Nablus). We should be out of there. It's not our land."

But what about the settlers themselves, I asked? Was it their land? Many smiles here. but few words. "Look, I can't the religious sites must be contalk politics, just to say that we trolled by Christians. Muslims should give back their towns." And East Jerusalem? "Never," Eilan replied, all of which sug-gested that Abdul-Haj and his predictions of "cantons" was too

tims were all IFP supporters.

hours after President Mandela

and Chief Buthelezi met in

Durban and announced that

Those killings came just

its "liberation" from Israeli troops, the Palestinians preferred to avoid the subject of Jerusalem. "It should be an international city," the tour guide insisted - no identity here, not even a Christian name - - and and Jews." I had heard this ar-

gument a thousand times. But the declaration of principles, the final status negotiations on Jerusalem - what was to become

with an equally thin moustache, shrugged his shoulders. "This is not my business."

But of course, it is his business. At present he cannot even drive the few miles to Jerusalem, let alone call it his capital. To travel to Ramallah or Jericho from Bethlehem. there is a newly improved road - the Arafat trail - that swoops dangerously into wadis and across escarpments, providing West Bank Palestinians with just the merest glance of the spires

glued to the screen". At one point he turned to Rabin's driver. Menahem Damti, and said he and Rabin had almost got into the car when Amir struck. "That's right." Mr Damti replied. "We almost managed to get in. It was a few seconds

between life and death." Six weeks after the assassination, the eight-minute video. the only pictures of the event, has revived the sense of shock. Yediot Aharanot, publishing Mr Kempler's pictures, said: "The national wound is open and bleeding. It will not heal. Not for months, not for years, not for a generation." The case with which Yigal Amir was able to penetrate the security men around Rabin has also redoubled criticism of the Shin

Bet internal security agency. Rabin left the ralk with four bodyguards, but two of them left him as he approached his car. According to testimony given to the Shamgar commission, which is investigating the assassination. one was engaged in moving equipment belonging to Avi Gefen, a singer who performed at the raily. A second was trying to keep back the crowds because the police had not put up

Had all four bodyguards stayed at their posts, Amir still might have got through. The area where the killing took place, behind Tel Aviv town hall. is only a side street which was cordoned off. Only a much heavier detachment of guards could have stopped Amir, who had no thought of escape and was prepared to die in order

enough barriers.

ANC supporters die as political violence continues

conceded that the attackers

could have been third-party

ment, Velaphi Ndlovu, said that

he believed there was a "third

An IFP member of parlia-

provocateurs.

ROBERT BLOCK Johannesburg

Gummen have shot and burned to death nine people in Kwa-Zulu-Natal - the second time in less than a week that entire families have been slaughtered in political violence in South Africa's most troubled province.

While the rest of the country is obsessed with the ravages of a crime explosion, KwaZulu-Natal is caught in a bloody Nelson Mandela's African Na-

tional Congress (ANC) against its rivals in the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Tuesday night's killings took place in the Mvutshini area on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast. Gunmen first attacked the home of an 80-year-old woman, shooting her dead. They then moved to a nearby village and set a hut on fire. One of the victims, a woman, was shot. The rest inside, four of them children, died in the blaze.

political because the nine vic- are the attackers were from the cluding a baby. This time the victims were ANC followers and IFP," Ravi Pillav said. But he this attack is linked to the Inkatha and ANC conflict in this area which has being going on for a long time," Superintendent Herman Fourie, a local police spokesman, said.
Both the ANC and Inkatha

condemned the killings and said the attacks were the work of those who opposed peace. However, the ANC spokesman in the area where the attacks occurred pointed a fin-

group" fanning violence in the south coast area, killing ANC and IFP members in the hope of sparking a wider conflict.

scene of two gruesome attacks on two families last Friday. In sure we work together to put an "The motive appears to be ger at Inkatha. "The indications all gummen killed 10 people. in- end to violence," he added.

of such a magnitude that it is a matter of concern to Buthelezi] The south coast was the and myself, the President said on Friday. "It is our duty to en-

KwaZulu-Natal.

said that violence in the province has actually been decreasing recently. The independent Human Rights Committee said that 37 people died in political violence they would soon launch an in November, the lowest monthly figure for five years.

Human rights monitors have

initiative to end the violence in Other observers do not place "Violence in this province is too much faith in those figures. saying that outstanding political differences between the ANC and the IFP ensure that the province will remain a tinderbox. Local elections in March are likely to intensify the killings.

man, the director of the Centre for Policy Studies, an examination of last year's election results shows that polls in KwaZulu-Natal have nothing to do with voter choice: "They are about The province's recent history

According to Steven Fried-

shows that control of territory is usually achieved by force. So if the parties fight a vigorous election campaign, they are unlikely to rely on posters and -door-to-door canvassu

IN BRIEF

Belgian police and airline strikers clash Brassels - Striking workers at the Belgian national airline Sabena clashed with police yesterday at Brussels airport. adding to the chaos facing passengers after the carrier cancelled flights for the second day in a row.

A crowd of up to 2,000 protesters threw stones and eggs as police barred them from entering the building. Police later turned water cannons on the demonstrators, who descended on the airport tarmac, before rounding them up. Rewer

Crash data impaired Moscow - The flight recorder of a plane that crashed on 6 De-

cember in Russia's far east with 97 people on board is so badly damaged its data cannot for the moment be deciphered. The Khaharousk Airlines plane went missing on a flight from Sakhalin island. Reuter

Corruption inquiry Paris - An investigating

magistrate ordered Martin Bouygues, the chairman of the French construction giant Bouveues, held in custody for a further 24 hours vesterday in an inquiry into alleged illegal political pay-offs.

Governor dies

Georgetown, Barbados - Nita Barrow 79 Barbados first female governor general, died on Tuesday after collapsing at a parn. Dame Nita was appointed governor general in 1990. 4P

Border controls stay Ostend - France announced vesterday it would maintain border controls on its six European partners in the Schengen zone for an indefinite

Eta suspects jailed Paris - A court sentenced 70 suspected members of the Spanish Basque separatist group Eta and alleged French collaborators to jail terms after a mass trial. Ten were acquitted at the trial of 33 Spanish Basques and 47
French nationals. Remer French nationals.

Di Pietro in trouble

Milan — A court in Brescia, northern Italy, has been asked te indict Antonio di Pictro, the manstrate who led the country's anti-corruption drive. The charges against him are extor-tion and abuse of office Reuter

Prince has Gigi from Georgia on his mind

The best-laid plans of the Queen of Spain to steer her only son away from an unsuitable match with a commoner and into the arms of a royal lady seem to have gone awry. The heir to the throne, Prince Felipe, packed off across the Atlantic to forget his first gran amor, has fallen heavily for a middle-class American student from a small town in Georgia.

The mainstream Spanish press is full of reports that the prince, 27, described in gossip magazines as one of the world's sexiest men, is serious about Giselle (Gigi) Howard and pops over to New York at every opportunity to see her. The prince met Gigi a year ago while he was studying for his master's degree at Georgetown University where he graduated in July.

Gigi, 24, is the youngest of daughters of a telephone company supervisor – described by company Tiempo magazine as a "typical hourgeois American family". They were introduced by the Prince's cousin, Paul of Greece, whose millionaire wife, Marie Chantal Miller. works for the same children's charity as Ms Howard. Ms Howard hit



Love-lorn: Isabel Sartorius, an intelligent commone was deemed unsuitable for Prince Felipe Photograph: Rex

headlines in June when a friendship, paparazzo, Carlos Arriazu, Meanwhile was caught trying to bug her telephone but it turned out he was trying to bug the wrong flat. He was, however, on the right track. Months before, the prince said he would not spend Easter with his family in Majorca as usual, but would stay in Washington swotting for his finals. Instead, he flew with Gigi for a weekend to the Caribbean island of Martin, signing in as Mr Borbon. Arriazu snatched more than 1,000 photos, Tiempo says. The prince visited New York again last month, where the couple made no effort to conceal

magazine hints that

prince's first love. Isabel Sariorius, could be back in the frame. After months of reclusion, she returned to the spotlight this week when her path crossed the prince's in Madrid. Queen Sofia disapproved of that relationship and is thought to have packed the prince off to Washington to put an end to it, to the sorrow of the Spanish public. As a commoner, albeit beautiful. intelligent and of noble birth, and the niece of a leading

deemed unsuitable. A string of princesses has trailed across the

Lenient measures for Nigeria

Commonwealth ministers yes-terday agreed a softly-softly statement on Nigeria, intending to nudge the regime towards democracy, writes Steve Crawshaw. Theoretically, the agreed statement was to be an iron fist is velvet glove. But the velvet was more obvious.

A special "action group" of eight Commonwealth foreign ministers, meeting in London, spelled out the terms of Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth last month, and announced possible future measures to be taken against the military regime.

Britain was "quite content" with the statement, officials chairman of the group, emsaid. "Everything now depends phasised that yesterday's dec-

on the Nigerians. They must show that they are serious about moving towards democracy."

The group agreed that five ministers should visit Nigeria, perhaps next month, "to pursue dialogue with the Nigerian government at the highest level". The group is due to meet again in April "to review progress".

Options still on the table, and listed in the statement, include freezing the assets of Nigerian leaders and their families; action to prevent new investment; and "partial trade embargoes, for instance oil sanctions" Stan Mudenge, the Zim-

bahwe foreign minister and

laration was adopted unanimously. But this was because the statement represented, in effect, a lowest common denominator.

Those who signed up included the representatives of Malaysia and Ghana. Both countries failed to vote for a recent United Nations motion critical of Nigeria. Nigeria was suspended from

the Commonwealth last month, one day after the execution of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others. But there is little enthusiasm for following that action, even though Nigeria has shown little desire to change. An opposition protest in Lagos this week was banned, and dispersed by riot police with tear gas.



obituaries/gazette

Viscount Watkinson

Harold Watkinson was trained as an engineer and, applying a mind which was rigorous and well-defined, entered parliamentary politics in the general election of 1950 as Conservative MP for Woking. He was, already, a highly successful busi-nessman and, like many before and after him (the late John Davies and today Sir James Goldsmith spring to mind), believed that businessmen could handle government far more efficiently and effectively than could politicians. He found out, however, that politics was an art of its own, and that the methods of man management that he had evolved for himself in business were ineffective when applied to the emotional, and often tortuous, handling of

Although a highly competent manager, Watkinson never developed the sheer skill and sure-footedness manifested by his main patron. Harold Macmillan. The peak of his political career (and the metaphor is apt, for he was an enthusiastic mountaineer) was attained when Macmillan made him Minister of Defence in 1959; he held the post until 1962, when the Prime Minister decided that Watkinson-style management was not to his liking. Watkinson left politics for ever in 1964. For years, however, he continued to write about military matters, most often in letters to the Times.

Watkinson was born in 1910 and educated at Queen's College, Taunton, and King's College London, where he read Engineering. Before the outbreak of the Second World War he had been courting a beautiful young lady. Vera Langmead. Once war began he - already a keen sailor signed up with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve; but he also suggested to Miss Langmoud that they get married promptly "because", he said later, "I could not work out how long the war would last, nor whether I would survive it. Therefore, I concluded that we should get some marital bliss in first. Many young men then married thus in haste, and repented later. Watkinson did not have to repent; but he married his Vera in November 1939.

He became Tory candidate

for Woking, and won the seat in the 1950 general election. which election marked the dying fall of the Aulec government first elected in 1945. It was, however, more than a year before Churchill resumed office. In 1951 Watkinson became Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation. After a stint at the Ministry of Labour, he returned to his old department as its head, in 1955.

As he rose through relatively junior ranks Watkinson earned a well-deserved reputa-



tion as a superbly competent organiser. In 1959, therefore, Macmillan made him Minister for Defence. This was a somewhat anomalous job, created for himself by Churchill in 1940, in order to take power from the three Service ministries. But it was, until 1959, a job really only made for such a man as Churchill. It was not made for a non-political politician.

Macmillan, moreover - who had served, briefly, as Minister of Defence himself - had a particular dream for the department. It was, essentially, to reduce the power and the status of individual Service ministers, and to make the senior minister the senior man. Watkinson, he thought, was the ideal individual to bring about such a revolution.

Two difficulties presented themselves. Charm was needed to persuade the Service chiefs to agree to re-organisation: Watkinson did not have the necessary charm. And, then, Watkinson's ideas of management were very different from those of the Prime Minister, Watkinson thought that the best way

of proceeding was to find the soldiers, sailors and airmen best suited, technically, to their jobs, and to let them get on with things. Macmillan's idea was to impose a visionary concept of a united service organisation on the suspicious and often captious individual forces. By 1962 he concluded that Watkinson was not the man for the job. Instead, he employed Duncan Sandys, with his fearsome reputation as a hatchet man, and then Peter Thorneycroft, who was equally ferocious. The First Sea Lord, Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was employed to do the charming. Macmillan had no illusions about this. "Poor Dickie," he wrote, "talks all the time and has (with all his charm) a

very limited mental capacity." Watkinson was rewarded this was Macmillan's own way of man management) with a Companionship of Honour, and a peerage. He was never fully consoled, but he made for himself a glittering and lucrative career in the business world becoming, among many other things, managing director of Schweppes, executive chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, and a director of the Midland Bank.

He also found time for a host of good causes, for his remarkable energy sustained him until nearly the end of his life. He was a bluff man, who did not suffer fools. But he was out of place in a political world which was coming ever more to rely on a style which he did not possess, rather than a substance which he undoubtedly did.

Patrick Cosgrave

Harold Arthur Watkinson, politician and businessman: born 25 January 1910; MP (Conservative) for Woking 1950-64: PPS to the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation 1951-52; Parliamentary Secretary to Ministry of Labour and National Service 1952-55; PC 1955; Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation 1955-59: Minister of Defence 1959-62; CH 1962; group managing director. Schweppes Ltd 1963-68, chairman, Cadbury Schweppes Ltd 1969-74; created 1964 Viscount Watkinson: President. CBI 1976-77; Chairman, Council, BIM 1968-70. President 1973-78; married 1939 Vera Langmead (two daughters); died

Ian Finlay

Ian Finlay, former Director of exhibitions were beautifully Ethnography from 1955 to Edinburgh, was a well-known figure in the arts of Scotland. Under his charge the museum's collection of Scottish silver was significantly enhanced, and his book A History of Scottish Gold and Silver Work (1956, revised in 1991) remains the standard

text in this field. Finlay's visionary approach inspired his staff. Many new developments germinated. Finlay began the continuing pro-gramme of building renewal at Chambers Street; he established the education section of the museum. Having inherited a fine new lecture theatre from his predecessor, he started a programme of public lectures unsurpassed in Britain. He staged a series of special exhibitions of lasting influence, many in association with the Edinburgh Festival. Of particular significance was the exhibition "Byzantine Art" (1958). brought together by David and

Tamara Talbot Rice, which included many objects from behind the Iron Curtain shown in the West for the first time since

Finlay was born in Auckland in 1906, but was no antipodean - his parents returned with him to their native Scotland when he was six weeks old. After the Edinburgh Academy and Edinburgh University he joined the the Royal Scottish Museum in 1932. During the war he was seconded to the Ministry of Information and was Deputy Regional Officer for Scotland from 1942 to 1944.

I first met Finlay when I joined the staff of the Royal Scottish Museum in 1950. Young at heart, he was Assistant Keeper in charge of the silver collections, and silver was his lasting love. Among the important pieces acquired in his time I remember his delight when the museum's bid for the Lennoxlove toilet service was successful. This famous French 17th-century set belonged to the Duchess of Richmond and Lennox, "La Belle Stewart", Finlay thought it perhaps the finest thing of its kind in existence. Finlay served as Keeper of

the Royal Scottish Museum in arranged by the design section 1961, when he was appointed to which he had inaugurated. the directorship of the museum.

> Commission for Scotland. Ian Finlay made many BBC broadcast talks on art and other topics. His love of country shines through his many books

on Scotland and its people.

William Ian Robertson Finlay museum curator: born Auckland, New Zcaland 2 December 1906; staff, Royal Scottish Mu-seum 1932-71, Keeper of the Department of Art and Ethnog-raphy 1955-61, Director 1961-71; Secretary, Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland 1953-61; CBE 1965; FRSA 1971; Professor of Antiquities to the Royal Scottish Academy 1971-95; married 1933 Mary Pringle (two

He retired in 1971. But his concern for the arts was not confined to the museum. He was active in the Scottish Arts Council and the Edinburgh Festival Council. He cared greatly for the built environment and for eight taxing years was Secretary to the Royal Fine Art

Charles D. Waterston

the West for the first time since Finlay served as Keeper of sons. one daughter); died the Second World War. These the Department of Art and Edinburgh 10 December 1995.

radiate power."

some sombre destiny,

alone as the symphonic

dancer. Verchinina was undoubtedly



Dynamic: Verchinina dancing with the De Basil company in the 1930s

Nina Verchinina

Nina Verchinina enjoyed a long and varied career in Russian ballet and was particularly notable for the modernistic trend she contributed to the classical dance.

She made annual appearances with the De Basil Ballet Russe at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. throughout the Thirties, and may still be remembered by some for the fluid plasticity of her style. She was an inspiration. to Léonide Massine who created specific roles for her in his symphonic ballets. Les Présages (Tchaikovsky, 1933), Choreartium (Brahms, 1933) and Symphonie funtastique (Berlioz.

The Times's critic Cvril Beaumont wrote: "Her arms were remarkable for the varying quality of movement. Sometimes they described beautiful curves. moving with a gentle rhythm like the ripple of a wave; sometimes they darted forward or backwards with the sudden swiftness of the flick of a whinlash. So dynamic were her movements that she seemed to

Massine himself, writing about Choreartium, said: To the second movement I compose a slow solemn dance for Verchinina. who gave a haunting performance as a restless

brooding creature in thrall to Arnold Haskell, in the Daily Telegraph on 16 June 1936, ex-alted: The triumph was Verchinina! Last night she not only gave the performance of her career but showed herself to stand

the prototype of the new ex-pressive classical dancer who World War she established her combined modern influences in contact with de Basil. a freer style. But she was also Her life was always busy and gifted for character roles such

as Chiarina in Le Carnaval, the street dancer in Beau Danube, and the snow maiden in Le Soleil de Nuit and other character works such as Prince Igor. Much in demand, Verchinina frequently left the De Basil company to pursue her career as a dancer and choreographer in San Francisco and South America. She possessed an innovative strain and was ambitious to be more than just a Cuyo at Mendoza, Argentina, dancer. Nina Verchinina was born in

Moscow in 1910 and spent her childhood in Shanghai, where she commenced ballet training. As a teenager she arrived in Paris to continue her studies with Olga Preobrajenska and Bronislava Nijinska. It was to her great advantage that she took the unlikely course of studying the central European style of Rudolf von Laban which extended her range and gave her an individual quality of movement.

She made her first stage appearance with the Ida Rubenstein company in Paris in 1929. Three years later she joined the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo and remained with that company throughout the Thirties in its various guises under the directorship at different times of Rene Blum, Léonide Massine and Colonel de Basil. During that decade she acquired international fame and married Count Jean Beausacq, who later was to contribute significantly by financing her own companies. During the Second

Health Service and Communi-

ty Care Act 1990 and the Com-

munity Care (Residential

Accommodation) Act 1992

21(1) ... a local authority ... shall

make arrangements for providing (a) residential accommodation for per-

residential accommodation to per-sons. ... who by reason of age, ill-ness disability... are in need of care and attention... 26(1)... arrange-ments under section 21... may in-clude arrangements made with a

voluntary organisation of with any

in one of four homes for the el-

derly in Wandsworth. In 1994

the council decided to transfer

three homes into private own-

ership, subject to arrangements

for their continued use as

homes for the elderly, and to

close the fourth. The applicant

applied for judicial review on

the ground that the council was

under a legal duty under

sections 21 and 26, as amend-

The applicant, aged 75, lived

other person . . .

reputation in Cuba and South America while still maintaining

roving. After the war she again returned to Europe, touring with de Basil. In 1949 she formed her own company to tour Spain, but South America had become the land of opportunity for her. In 1950 she was guest choreographer at the Teatro de la Plato, Buenos Aires. In 1952, as ballet mistress and choreographer, she created the Ballet Universidad de producing such ballets as Pastoral Symphony (Handel), Narcisse (Ravel), Rhapsody in Blue (Gershwin) and Salome (Richard Strauss). Once more in Rio de Janeiro she undertook choreographies for the Casino Copacabana at the same time becoming guest choreographer to the Teatro Municipal.

During the following years she formed another company, Ballet Nina Verchinina, in Rio, making several tours of the South Americas. Periodically she returned to choreograph ballets for the Ballet Rio de Janeiro. Eventually settling in Copacabana, she organised her own studio and performing group which kept her occupied for the rest of her life. Like many dancers of her era she retained a sturdy physique and continued to work into old age.

John Gregory

Nina Verchinina, dancer, teacher and choreographer: born Moscow 1910; married Count Jean de Beausacq; died Co-pacabana, Brazil 16 December 1995.

Konrad Zuse

If Germany had been a victor in the Second World War, then today Konrad Zuse would probably be recognised world-wide as the father of the computer.

In 1941 he completed the Z1, the world's first fully operational automatic digital computer: a mechanical device of limited capacity and speed. Zuse then developed an electric model based on telephone relay technology, and planned a much faster machine to be built with electronic tubes. This had only reached the stage of a small prototype when, in 1942, the project was axed by the German Army Command. As one historian later wrote, Zuse "cracked open the door to an awesome and strange new world, but that door slammed shut before he could pass through".
Zuse was born in 1910 in

Berlin, the son of a post office official. As a boy he was gifted in both the arts and sciences: an accomplished artist and an enthusiastic amateur actor, he also delighted in constructor sets and decided to make his living as an engineer. In 1927 he enrolled at the Technical University of Berlin-Charlottenburg, where he studied civil engineering. On graduating in 1935 he became a stress analyst for the Henschel Aircraft Company, where he worked on problems of aircraft vibration. Stress analysis involved formidable calculations, which could then only be performed with great difficulty using teams of human "computers" equipped with desk calculating machines.

Zuse was seduced by the calculating problem. Working in his own time in the evenings and at weekends, he began to design and build a mechanical computer in the living room of his parents' house. He called the computer the "V1" for Ver-suchsmodel 1 - Experimental Model 1. (After the war he renamed his machines Z1, Z2 etc, to avoid confusion with Wernher von Braun's flying bombs.) As a computer builder, Zuse worked as an amateur, com-pletely outside the mathematical community, although he obtained some financial assistance from a local calculating machine manufacturer. He also persuaded a former university classmate, Helmut Schreyer,

to work with him. When it was completed in 1938 the Z1 was too small and crude for realistic calculations, so plans were laid for a full-scale machine. In 1939 war broke out, however, and Zuse was drafted into the infantry to serve in the front line. It took months of



Desert-Island computing: Zuse with his Z4 computer, c1942

pleading for the German Army Command to accept the military significance of Zuse's computing work and allow him to return to his computer building. He now joined the Third Reich's Aerodynamics Research Institute which funded the building of a full-scale computer, the Z3. The Z3 became operational in December 1941, first practical automatic com- 1995.

puter. A second machine, the Z4, was quickly commissioned. Up to this time, Zusa's machines had been based on relay technology, which limited computing speeds to a few arithmetic operations a second. Schreyer proposed that their next machine should be based on electronic tubes, which would be potentially a thousand times faster. Only a 150-tube prototype had been completed when the project was discontinued as the German military

authorities believed the end of

the war was in sight.

How WIS

In 1943, when the tide turned against Germany, the Z3 was destroyed by the Allied air raids on Berlin. With the intervention of Wernher von Braun the Z4 was taken to safety in the underground Harz mountain chambers where the V1 and V2 flying bombs were being developed. With extreme material shortages of every kind, Zuse and Schreyer had to abandon computer building. As the war came to its end, Schreyer, a Nazi Party member, fled to South America, while Zuse, who was neither a party member nor a dissident, retreated to an Alpine village, Hinterstein, for the next few years; there he first rescued and then preserved the precious Z4 computer in a stable.

He began to look at an aspect of computing that did not require physical resources - computer programming. He devised a remarkable system, the Plankalkul, which anticipated many programming concepts that only surfaced in the United States and Britain in the early 1950s. Like his earlier computer work, the *Plankalkul* was a kind of desert-island computing -entirely born of Zuse's mind, neither influenced by, nor

influencing, the work of others. In 1949, when the first electronic computers in America and Britain were becoming operational, the Federal Polytechnic Institute in Zurich acquired the carefully preserved Z4. Refurbished, it was pressed into service in 1950, helping to establish the institute as a leading centre of computing research in continental Europe.

In 1950, as German industry re-established itself, Zuse, still only 40, set up a successful computer manufacturing business. Zuse KG. The firm produced a number of slow but inexpensive relay-based computers, before making in 1958 the Z22, a fullscale electronic computer of which some 50 were sold. The 1960s were a difficult period for the European industry, with the onslaught of IBM and the American giants. In 1967, Zuse KG was acquired by Siemens. Zuse remained active as a consultant and researcher for severai years. In his retirement he devoted his time to sketching and painting. He was an eccomplished and natural

draughtsman. Outside Germany, Kourad Zuse was almost unknown until the 1960s, and his computer research had no discernible impact on the mainstream of computer development. Even his Plankalkül was not published in English until 1972, when software had advanced so far bevond his work of 1945 that it was little more than an academic curiosity. But a new generation of computer scientists and engineers recognised the enormity of Zuse's accomplishments, which were even more impressive for having been undertaken in almost total isolation. In the 1970s and 1980s Zuse was showered with honorary degrees, and awards and medals from the computer and electrical engineering institutions. Martin Campbell-Kelly

Konrad Zuse, computer scientist: born Berlin 22 June 1910; married (two sons, two daughters, and one son deceased); died and was by two years the world's Hunfeld, Germany 19 December

BIRTHS

DURBIN: To Janette and Peter, a son, Edgar, brother for Heary, 18 De-cember in London.

DEATHS

DEVERELL: On 13 December, Colville Montgomery, GBE KCMG CVO, aged 38. Dev died peacefully after cight years' devoted care, first at the eight wears' devoted care, first at the Fairmile Hospital, Wallingford, later at West Oak, Wokingham, Much loved and forms husband of Margy, devoted father and grandfather. Former Governor of Mauritius, and Secretary General, IPPF, Funeral at St Nicholas Church, Remenham, Hendista Tharms, J. Then Wedgerdon. jey-on-Thames, 2.30pm. Wednesday 3 January. Family flowers only. Do-nations, if desired to Alzheimer's Discase Society. 10 Greencoat Place. London SWIP IPH.

FLETCHER: Professor Charles, CBE FRCP, peacefully at home in London on 15 December, aged 84, Dearly loved husband of Louisa, much-loved father and grandfather. Funeral service at Holy Trigity Church, Claphan cember. Memorial service to be an-nounced later. Family flowers only, but

Lectures

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler. Christopher Brown, Neil MacGregor, "A Week Before Christmas (iv): Rembrandt, Veronese, Calena".

National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "NPG Christmas Quiz",

Births. Marriages & Deaths

donations may be sent to the British Diabetic Association, 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD.

WADDINGTON: Marjoric Edith (née Harding), wife of Eric James (de-ceased), mother of David and John. ceased), mother of David and John, and grandmother of Matthew, Rupert and Jessica, peacefully in hospital on Sunday 17 December, after a long and valiant bartle against the effects of a stroke, aged 90. Funeral service will be held at St Matthew's, Bayswater, on Wednesday 10 January at Ipm. Emily Guerre oak but donations if Family flowers only, but donations if Stroke Association, either directly or c/o J.H. Kenyon, 83 Westbourne Grove, London W2 4UL.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax to 0171-293 2010.

in memory of Christopher Beding-field TD QC. Tickers are not required.

British Museum: Delia Pemberton. "Tales of the Buddha". 1.15pm.

Christopher Bedingfield Evening Prayer will be sung in the Chapel of Gray's Inn. London WC1, on Tuesday 23 January 1996 at 5pm.

Birthdays Mr Alexander Bennett, former chair-man, Whitbread and Co, 82; Air

Commandant Dame Jean Bromet, former Director, WRAF, 83: Mrs Chris Evert-Lloyd, tennis champion. 41; Miss Jane Fonda, actress, 58; Mr James Hill MP, 69; Mr Peter Johnson, Headmaster, Wrekin College, 48; Sir Frederick Lawton, former judge. 84: Mr Wyndham Milligan, former Principal, Wolsey Hall, Oxford. 88: Sir John Nabarro, consultant physician, 80; Mr Steve Perryman, footballer, 44; Mr Anthony Powell, novelist, 90; Mr John Quayle, actor. 57; Sir John Quinton, chairman, George Wimpey, 66; Flt-Lt William Reid VC, 74: Brigadier Vera Rooke. former Director, Army Nursing Services. 71: Mr Walter Spanghero. rugby player, 52; Mr Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 51: Mr Peter Tinniswood playwright, 59: Mr Cyril Townsend MP. 58; Mr James Tyc, Director-General. British Salety Council, 74; Mr Doug Walters, crick-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Duke of Edinburgh, Pairvo, attends the British Associate in for Schooling and Conservations Game Conservance: Trust Young Shot's Cay Shooling Competition at Sandringham Shooling Ground, Norfolk, The Duchess of Sent attends a creating of The Wind or the Willess in aid of the Renton Foundation, at the Coreon Mayfair Cinema, London Wil.

eter, 50: Mr Alan Williams MP, 50.

Changing of the Guard

Council need not manage residential homes for elderly Regina v Wandsworth London

Borough Council, ex parte Beckwith: House of Lords (Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Griffiths. Lord Jauncey of Tuffichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Hoffmann): 14 December 1995

A local authority is not under a legal duty directly to maintain any accommodation for the elderly in need of care and attention in premises under its own management but is entitled to make arrangements with voluntary organisations or in the private sector to provide accommodation. The House of Lords dis-

missed an appeal by the applicant. William Beckwith, from the Court of Appeal's decision that the council was entitled to discharge its statutory duty to make arrangements for providing residential accommodation for old people in need of care and attention entirely by means of arrangements

made with third parties. Sections 21 and 26 of the National Assistance Act 1948, as ed, to maintain some accomamended by the National modation for elderly in the private, there might have

LAW REPORT

21 December 1995 premises under its own direct

Mr Justice Popplewell quashed the council's decision. The Court of Appeal allowed the council's appeal, holding that the council was entitled to

ments made with third parties. The applicant appealed, arguing that "may include" in section 26 meant that private sector arrangements might form part of the local authority's arrangements under section 21 but did not mean "might wholly consist of". Richard Gordon QC and Alan Maclean (Wandsworth Law Centre) for the applicant, Alan Wilkie QC and Scan Jones (Borough Solicitor) for the

discharge its statutory duty en-

tirely by means of arrange-

Lord Hoffmann said that if the Act had said that accommodation to be provided by the council "may include" homes in been some force in the argument. However the duty of the council under section 21 was to make "arrangements" for providing residential accommodation for certain

classes of people.

Section 26 said that "arrangements under section 21" (not, "the arrangements made under section 21") might include arrangements with the private sector. The draftsman was not saying that homes in the private sector might be included in the collective of homes which the council had to provide. He was saying that the concept of "arrangement" which had been used to define the council's duty in section 21 was to include arrangements with the private sector.

That produced an altogether different result: it extended the meaning of the concept by which the council's duty was defined. Any arrangements which fell within the extended defin-

ition would satisfy the council's

duty.
The policy guidance issued contained references to a "mixed economy of care" and encouraged more use of the private sector. The guidance contemplated that the move to greater private provision would take some time. It did not follow that local authorities had to retain direct control of some unspecified proportion of every service. That would have been imposing a duty to make direct provision which seemed contrary to the general thrust of the government's policy.

It was true that paragraph 4 of Local Authority Circular LAC(93)10 said it was the view of the department that the amendments would require authorities to make some provision for residential care under the 1948 Act. That statement

was simply wrong. Lord Goff, Lord Griffiths. Lord Janney and Lord Browne Wilkinson agreed.

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister

♠.

How the guns kept drugs out of Belfast

Despite the ceasefire, killings continue - but many people in Northern Ireland privately applaud the shooting of traffickers. **David McKittrick** explains

S omebody is killing drug dealers in Belfast, Mickey "Moneybags" Mooney was the first to go, gunned down in a city-centre bar in April. Another fatal shooting followed in September, and this month there

have been three more. Three of the dead men, including Moneybags, were unquestionably major, full-time professional drug dealers, buying and pushing drugs on a large scale. The most recent victim, who died on Tuesday night, may not have been quite in their league, though he was awaiting trial on a charge of importing cannabis worth £250,000.

The fifth killing is less clear-cut, for the victim had only a glancing connection with drugs, though he was well-known to detectives investigating armed robberies.

Since the IRA and loyalist ceasefires of late 1994 there have been a handful of other murders: a postal worker killed during a robbery, for which the IRA apologised; some Catholics killed by drunken loyalists; a loyalist dying in a revenge killing at the hands of his former associates.

Each time news arrives that a man has been shot dead everyone holds their breath for a moment, then relaxes when it becomes clear that the incident represents no threat to the ceasefires. Once this has been established these killings fade fast from the public

memory.

The fact of these three drugrelated deaths within a month is, however, raising new questions about who is responsible, and whether this much-increased killing rate could lead to a slide back to i-scale violence. Although the IRA has not admitted any of the killings, most assume they are its

Although the police are undoubt-

have been markedly evasive in answering questions about who is doing the killings. Senior spokes-men have in effect been at pains not to accuse the IRA of responsibility: politically, the name of the game seems to be to attempt to make a distinction between political vio-

questions about Northern Ireland as a society, for the chilling truth is that as the lowest of the low, and few shed tears when they meet sudden

There is another reason. Belfast may have suffered terribly from terrorism, but the troubles had the effect of ensuring that it remained

edly pursuing the gunmen, both the RUC and government ministers lence and vigilantism. All this is posing fundamental

the attitude of many sections of opinion towards the drugs killings is one of public silence but private applause. Drug dealers are regarded premature deaths. Such attitudes are not confined to

Northern Ireland, as Michael Winner's vigilante films suggest, but there are particular reasons why Belfast does not mourn the passing of such men. For one thing, a quarter-century of terrorism has inevitably inured many to the idea of violent death.

(per 1,000,000 of the population) Lothian and Borders (including Edinburgh): 560 Dublin: 5428 (unofficial figure) Greater Manchester: 932 Greater London: 1040

Registered drug addicts in the major conurbations.

the most drug-free city in these islands. People now want it to stay

In the 1970s the fact that both republican and loyalist groups made it clear they would kill dealers kept the city, apart from the traditionally bohemian student districts, relatively free of drugs.

This hard-line attitude softened in the late 1980s, particularly on the loy-

alist side, with increasing quantities of dope and tablets gradually mak-But even then there were unwriting their appearance. In the early 1990s the IRA maintained its puritanical anti-drugs stance but in other

quarters things changed dramati-cally. Some minor republican groups and some major loyalist figures, seeing the profits to be made, switched from condemning the drugs trade to actively trafficking in it.

ten rules and regulations. Dope and Ecstasy tablets became more widely available but heroin and the like have been strictly taboo. Dublin, 100 miles and a three-hour car journey away, bad thousands of beroin addicts, but in Belfast the drug was practically unknown.

The IRA made its attitude clear with several large-scale operations: in 1992, in one night, it killed one drug dealer and kneecapped another 10. In 1994, a few months before its cessation of violence, scores of IRA members took part in attacks which killed one dealer and injured a further 16.

In the republican districts where drugs were taking hold, many people openly approved of this violence against what were termed "antisocial elements," while many more ambivalence. The IKA was widely regarded as keeping the problem at bay, so that when it called its ceasefire many feared it would have the unwelcome side-

effect of opening up Belfast to heroin and cocaine

That was, after all, exactly what happened in South Africa in the wake of the political settlement there. Before the agreement, drug abuse was mainly confined to marijuana and pills, but since then parts of the country, including Soweto, have been flooded with cocaine as a Nigerian drug cartel set

about creating a new market.

In Belfast the quantity of marijuana and Ecstasy tablets available rose steeply in the aftermath of the ceasefires. The RUC reinforced its drug squad, but there was wide-spread public concern about the possibility of a flood of drugs,

including cocaine or heroin. The shootings of the four dealers have sent a message both to local dealers and to those who outside. After the killing of Moneybags some of his associates stood in the street outside the bar and angrily shouted: "What ceasefire?

What about the ceasefire now? The message is that the IRA cessation does not extend to the drugs

The killings may well have the effect of stopping that trade from flourishing, and of keeping heroin out of Belfast. In themselves these are laudable ends: the problem is the means by which they are achieved. Assuming the killers are the IRA, their activities are allowing the organisation to project itself as the defender of the

But in doing so it is keeping the flame of violence lit, demonstrating the power of the gun and projecting the pernicious message that, while political terrorism may be over, carefully directed violence is a useful tool of social control. If that continues, it will dash the hopes of tarism would slowly but surely wither away, to be replaced even tually by a society in which the gun had no role.

Paramilitary violence since the ceasefire

 Republicans and loyalists have: carried out 245 beatings since the ceasefire compared with 190 attacks in the previous 14 months. Of these, loyalists carried out 119 and the republicans 71.

 Since the ceasefire, loyalists have carried out 86 beatings whereas the

republicans have been responsible for 159 - more than double the number for the equivalent period prior to the

● The latest figures indicate that there have been 27 murders in Northern Ireland since the ceasefire compared with 126 murders in the 14 months before the ceasefire.

Keen to build on new-found ratings glory after Martin Bashir's interview with the Princess of Wales, the people at Panorama are electually planning a further coup. They intend their next major exploration of current affairs to be an interview with the Duchess of

So we could yet witness Bashir looking solemnly through his spectacles at the Duchess and asking probing policy questions such as: "Duchess, how exactly did you feel



Putting her foot down

when you and Mr Bryant explored the erogenous qualities of toes? But I suspect that the duchess, who

may yet repair her marriage to Prince Andrew, is unlikely to rock the family boat in quite the same way as her

"We have been asked in the last few days if she is going to do it, and her answer is emphatically 'No', I was right beside her when she said it." said the duchess's press secretary.

Dominique Vallemy, yesterday. The Panorama team were cover: "We haven't heard anything about

I suppose their shyness might stem from the unduly long time it is taking the programme's editors to find a suitable link with the duchess. Sadly



for Panorama, she has no great interest in rugby. The Princess of Wales interview was mediated through Will Carling - Bashir and Carling hecame friends some years ago through their shared love of the sport. Some say this friendship explains the peculiar omission of any questions about Carling in the interview with the princess. Eagle Eye is not so cynical and is sure the investigative Bashir just ran out of time.

There was a notable horticultural faux pas this week when an episode of the BBC's Gardener's Question Time was recorded on the terrace of the House of Commons. Hosted by Westminster's all-party Gardening Club, the panel of experts took questions from such gardening experts as Ken Livingstone, Alf Morris and the Australian-born life

peer, the suitably named Lady

rdner of Parkes. The guest panellist, Gordon McMaster MP, a professional horticulturalist himself, waxed aggressively on the subject of nsettias, those ubiquitously seasonal red-leaved horrors. Asked for advice for all those saddled with them as Christmas gift, he snarled that they should be quietly done away

settias? She glared loftily from the elegant Speaker's staircase ed from top to bottom with

After stirring things up somewhat in national lottery circles, Richard Branson, I hear, is planning a return to his first love - running a record label. The founder of Virgin Records, who sold his youthful dream to Thorn EMI in 1992, is suffering withdrawal symptoms three years on. He has set up a working party to investigate how he can make his mark in the music business once more. Branson has inquired about several artists, including Janet Jackson. But whatever his new label is called, it will not be the title most associated with him. Virgin Records executives are adamant that he will be legally unable

A man with no name

to use the Virgin name.

If you are one of those who find it nausting enough to have just one

running riot at the same time. Two Santa Clauses were arrested for tussling with guards in an argument involving a Christmas

wreath. Some of the roving whitebeards invaded a rooftop children's carnival and stole decorations and other Christmas props. And a Mother Christmas was charged with indecent exposure after allegedly popping her breasts out in front of the assembled

The event was organised by the resonantly named Cacophony Society, which had invited the Santa Clauses to converge in downtown San Francisco. But police inspector Randy Krings yes, really - did not enter into the festive spirit.

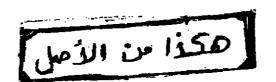
"This is something you'd expect from teenage kids. You'd think these people would have a higher sense of responsibility." But I have some sympathy with the inspector. There is no police manual guidance on what to say when Mother Christmas exposes

A mysterious, elegantly coiffured lady was pictured yesterday on three newspaper front pages with the MP David Ashby as he left the High Court after losing his libel case. The Guardian had a large front page picture solely of Ashby and the roman; the Times and Telegraph also showed her in close proximity to him. Could she have been a skeleton from his closet that might yet save his reputation? The truth is more prosaic. She was *Independent* reporter Rebecca Fowler after one last quote, and at the same time providing her times over that she hadn't skived off

Eagle Eye







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Something fishy at Westminster

In our can bet fish are not high up the groups, thereby exposing policy propos-I Downing Street Christmas menu this year. John Major won't want to be reminded of his embarrassing defeat in the House of Commons over European fishing rules. And such an irritating vote to lose - no direct consequences for fish. fishermen or fish-eaters, and no great principles invoked in the debate. Yet thanks to Labour's opportunism and the determination of the Euro-sceptics, the fragility of Mr Major's majority was forced into public view once more.

But fish are not the precursor of an early election. Although Conservative numbers in the Commons are gradually being whittled down by death and defection. Mr Major still maintains an outright majority of three (five if you include Sir Richard Body, the Euro-sceptic who doesn't take the Conservative whip). All of these will return to the fold if a vote of confidence is called. In the Seventies. James Callaghan lasted for years without an actual majority at all. Never underestimate the resilience and wiliness of a group of politicians determined to keep

The fish vote has more significance for the nature of government in 1996 than it does for the timing of the general election. Gradually politicians, press and public alike are adjusting to a Westminster where the balance of power is fragile. The Eighties world of huge majorities allowed the Tory governments of that period to push through legislation without fear of defeat and little need for debate. Small majorities, on the other hand, may increase the power of Parliament. In extremis, governments can be obliged to negotiate openly in order to build a consensus between different

als to a far greater degree of public debate than the current adversarial party system normally requires.

The trouble is that the House of Commons under Mr Major is a far cry from such involuntary consensus government. Instead of moderating policies to collect extra votes in the centre, Mr Major has to play to the far right. Whether it be Euro-sceptics and fish, or conservative moralists and divorce, it is the Conservative right wing which is accruing undue influence.

Thanks to the adversarial party system. there is little chance of the Government being shored up by extra votes from the centre. The Labour Party finally has power in its sights and, with the notable exception of Northern Ireland, is primarily motivated by the desire to make life as hard as possible for the Govern-ment. Even the Liberal Democrats, a source of extra votes in the past, have decided it is better to hasten the arrival of a fresh new government than to keep the Conservatives staggering on.

The process of political negotiation is equally disappointing. Instead of open debate over policies in advance, we see sudden swings in direction and blatant last-minute bribes. In Tuesday's debate, the Government suddenly produced £4m in grants to fishing ports in an attempt to

win those last few votes. This is all rather depressing. An ominous pattern is being set for the politics of 1996; a faltering government pandering to its own rebels, a frequent chopping and changing in policy direction, and an Opposition driven only by the scent of power in its nostrils. At least a general election is no more than 15 months away.

A warm glow in **South Mimms**

Stress over Britain. Stress carling under the doors of the executives of merchant banks; stress seizing the hearts of overworked middle managers in cold embrace: stress entering the industrial estate and paralysing the limbs of the ui pusinessman: stress enveloping th Christmas shopper: seasonal stress taking the round redness out of the cook's face and replacing it with a pinched desperation. And stress gripping the temper of the Yuletide motorist, caught in jams or stranded by snow, with so much to do and so little time to do it

But vesterday, in the warm, well-lit halls of the South Mimms service station, whose thousands of cheerful lights east a rosy glow out on to the grim greyness of the M25, stress was being banished. The benevolent ladies and gentlemen of the Royal Automobile Club had met and decided (doubtless over mulled wine and sweetmeats) to assist the beleaguered motorists of Britain. A psychologist would be on hand to counsel the stress away, to exorcise it. Yesterday it was the turn of the country's largest orbital motorway, Today Conrad King (for such is the eminent man's name) will be on hand at Fleet on the M3 and Birchanger on the M11.

Here we reproduce some of the advice that the admirable King will be giving to the patients on the couch. We have tried to help even further by supplying the undesirable alternative in parentheses: Stay calm and ignore challenges from

At a glittering ceremony in the Canary Wharf Balfroom Suite last night, the prizes were awarded in the 1995 Independent Awards of the Year during a presentation that will

never be forgotten by those who

stayed awake until the end. As the

waiters passed among the star-

studded tables doling out generous

office sandwiches from their rural

baskets, the chairman of Indepen-

dent Newspapers. Lord Shareholder.

rose to address the audience and

"My lords, ladies and gentlemen, and

workers in the press media. This is

not a ceremony like other cere-

monies. For one thing, we will not be

presenting a prize to any Personal-

To be a Personality is a dreadful

thing. Whenever I hear someone

greeted as a Sports Personality of the

Year, for example, I feel sorry for

that person, for I know that he is

doomed to stop being a personality

at the end of the year. How dread-

ful to see 1 January approaching, and

know that you have only a few days

"Indeed," continued Lord Share-

holder, to appreciative chuckles. "I

myself, if nominated as a Personal-

ity, would be very worried indeed.

Not just at the prospect of becom-

spoke as follows:

ity of the Year.

left as a personality!

other drivers (no screaming "Bastard" at the top of your voice if the Volvo driver in the sheepskin so much as glances at you). Be courteous and use the RAC thank you/sorry sign (which does not consist of a sudden upward gesture with the extended

Plan your route in advance, to avoid lust-minute arguments over map-reading (we are sick of picking up spouses who have been dumped on the hard shoulder together with shredded editions of Routefinder Britain \.

Try to relax by listening to soothing music (it is funny how many accidents are caused by heavy metal fans attempting to drive while pretending to be lead guitar).

Listen to weather forecasts before setting out, and plan your journey time accordingly (if Michael Fish so much as mentions snow. forget delivering that donated kidney to the waiting hospital. Go at once to the supermarket, stock up with tinned soup and Longlife milk - you're in

for the long haul).
It should be clear by now that the RAC has established a useful precedent with its psychologist, which others might well emulate. Could not the divine Delia be on hand, via radio or television, to counsel those struggling with vast turkey dinners ("think twice before you throw that gravy boat at granny"), or department store Santas stand ready to throw iced water on overheating shoppers? Stress is the enemy of us all. Let us defeat him

ing an ex-personality, but also at the

prospect of not surviving much

longer. I do not know how many of

you listen to the Radio 4 programme

Here the noble Lord looked round

the Independent Ballroom 'n' Con-

ference Suite, but it was far from

obvious from the glazed faces whether the guests had taken in his

"Let me tell you, then, that recently

the Today programme has been

organising its Personality of 1995 Lis-

teners' Poll. There were six people on

the shortlist to succeed last year's

winner. Roy Castle. These six were

as follows: the Princess of Wales;

HRH the Queen Mother: Yitzhak

Rabin: the murdered headmaster

Philip Lawrence: John Major, and

A murmur of incredulity swent

cound the Independent Heritage

remark. He continued:

called Today .

Tony Blair."

Yesterday's man, today's hot spot



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

for women

From Mr Stephen Shaw Sir: You are right to place respon-sibility for the horrors of Holloway at the door of the Home Secretary ("Howard must act on prison misery", 20 December). The excessive use of imprisonment, the overemphasis on security, the budgetary restrictions. and the failure over many years to find alternative accommodation for mentally ill prisoners, are all politically driven.

However, we need to look beyond the immediate situation at Holloway - appalling though it is - to see if there are better ways of running the women's prison system as a whole. A fundamental problem is that the security crackdown which followed the escapes from Whitemoor and Parkhurst applies just as much to female prisoners as to males. Similarly, home leave and temporary release opportunities have although all the serious home leave "failures" (an unfortunate euphemism, since they included several murders and armed rob-

beries) involved male prisoners. Given the distinct needs and characteristics of women prisoners, the running of women's prisons should be regarded as a specialism, and the women's prison system managed separately from that of the males. This would enable rules and regulations in women's prisons more effectively to reflect women's needs. And it would ensure that those needs receive the priority - and the resources - which they deserve.

To most people, the chaining of women prisoners up to the point of giving birth will seem a monstrosity. It has occurred because the interests of women have been ignored in an orgy of security resulting from the misdeeds of men. Yours faithfully. STEPHEN SHAW

Director, Prison Reform Trust London, EC1

Banqueting Suite (audiovisual facilities available).

'Think about it. Last year's winner

is dead. Two of this year's nominees are already dead, and one is very,

very old. I am no actuary, but it seemed to me either that the death

risk among Personalities is very high,

or that people think that dying con-

fers Personality on a person. Either

way, I would be worried if I were told

that I were being considered for a

Personality shortlist and I would

adjourn to a health farm until it was

brief chuckle raced through the

"But do you notice another thing

about that shortlist for Personality of

the Year? Do you notice that none

of the nominees is famous for their

personality, and that at least one or

two of them are famous for being

deficient in personality? My lords,

ladies and gentlemen, may I suggest

to you that if we are giving out prizes

for personality, we might as well

ity. I think of people such as Janet

Street-Porter, Paula Yates, Jeffrey

At this there was a friendly heckle

from the audience when someone

called out: "Have you read any of his

*****27 * * *

select people who are all personal-

over.

Archer ...'

throng and expired.

Prison regime | Christian Christmases need Santa - and cribs | Distorted view

sage, indeed I am all for it, but let the spirit of giving embodied in Santa Claus remain a part of our

children's Christmas. Perhaps by

From Mr Martin Hill Sir: The upset caused by Canon Brian Andrews to the parishioners and children in his congregation is a lesson which the theologically minded need to learn ("Vicar's attack on Santa ends in tears", 18 December).

Christmas is not about the historicity of the gospel birth nar-ratives or the difference between fact and fable. Neither is it about the contemporary issues, high-lighted by the Rt Rev Dr David Jenkins, of homelessness, poverty and oppression. It is about having a nice time with little children dressed as angels, shepherds, kings, Joseph and Mary and a dolly in the manger to represent the baby Jesus. It is about trying to find a "window" in a world increasingly pressured by universal degradation and selfworthlessness to see the possibility of affirmation and

materialism with which the traditional spiritual values of Christmas are blighted. Yes, let us affirm the facts of the gospel mes-

Permanent record

Sir: David Lister argued (Section

Two; "As not seen on TV", 6

December) that more theatre

productions should be televised.

Simon Curtis, executive producer

of BBC's Performance series

replied (Section Two, 13 Decem-

ber), pointing out that "superb

theatre does not always make

good television" and that in very

many cases theatre producers

The Theatre Museum does

offer an alternative solution:

The National Video Archive of

Stage Performance. The pur-

pose of this scheme, created by

Margaret Benton in 1992, with

union agreement, is to provide

"Yes, I have," replied Lord Share-

holder, "and that is why I tell you that

Archer is all personality. There seems

to be no other contributory factor to

After the laughter had died down, he

If we are to award prizes for per-

sonality to dead people, why not give

them to real personalities? Why not

to the late Peter Cook? Or Robert

Stephens? Why not to John

"Because he didn't die in 1995,"

came another cry.
"And nor did Henry Purcell,"

retorted Lord Shareholder, "but he

for my money was the musical per-

"However, I have spent enough

time telling you why we are not

choosing a Personality of the Year.

Let me tell you instead which areas

are in the running to win the coveted

prize as Trouble Spot of the Year,

for which Brixton, south London.

has made such a spirited late bid."

Which place will win the Trouble

Spot of the Year Award and take over

Will it be Northern Ireland? Bosnia?

Rwanda? Wherever Manchester

United play away? We bring you the

climax of the ceremony tomorrow!

e trophy won last year by Haiti?

sonality of 1995 ...

his success.

continued:

of stage plays

From Ms Sue Rolfe

refuse permission.

the maintenance of this traditional embellishment to Christmas our children may learn that Christmas is about giving: God's gift to us of Jesus Christ, the symbolic gifts made to him by the magi, and our exchanging gifts with one another to mark this tremendous act of a loving God. Yours faithfully, MARTIN HILL Manchester 18 December

From Mrs J. M. Challender Sir. It will be a sad day for Chris-December'

As an infant teacher who has David Jenkins is right to bring staged the nativity play more the most enduring and objective piece of teaching about Chris-

tianity that they will ever receive.

L and countless teachers like myself, go to great lengths to put the birth of Jesus in an historical context, and even very young children are capable of under standing that it was a real event, that it took place in a country far away, and that it is this event that we celebrate each Christmas. -

nativity plays and you take away

the last vestige of a meaningful

Christmas from the young chil-

dren of society. It would appear

that there are a good many clergy who have little understanding of young children and who certainly

underestimate both their need

for fantasy and their capability of

understanding difficult concepts. Yours faithfully,

Risk assessment

by league tables

Sir. As an anaesthetist, the assess

ment of risk to health is part of my

everyday life. Similarly, every

insurance premium that individ-

uals pay is based on the likelihood

of a particular event. Yet, as a

society, risk assessment is some-

thing that receives scant regard.

Your article 'Nose pickers steer path to danger" (19 December) highlights the absurd risks that we are prepared to accept in the

course of everyday activity. Part of

my reassurance to patients anx-

ious about the outcome of their

impending anaesthetic is to

explain that the most dangerous

part of their day is likely to have been their car journey to hospital.

Yet we seem to accept these risks with little concern. Cigarette

smoking kills hundreds of thou-

sands per year, but receives little

of the coverage attached to BSE. Frightening though Creutzfeldt-

Jakob Disease may be, it accounts for a mere 40-50 deaths per year.

We are becoming increasingly used to league tables. Is it not

time that a responsible media

focus efforts more meaningfully?

meteorites at the bottom.

Nice schools, pity

about the pupils

them, and not that they are pro-

viding inferior education?

Elected parent governor.

King Edward VI College

Yours faithfully,

DAVID ROBINSON

Tomes,

16 December

Devon

From Mr David Robinson

Yours faithfully

PETER STOW

lpswich 20 December

JULIA CHALLENDER

From Dr Peter Stow

Petham,

18 December

Kent

They are able to understand in a remarkably mature way concepts such as angels being symbolic message-bearers from God, and in their own mysterious way they are able to differentiate between pure fantasy - as in the tooth fairy - and reality. Abolish

tianity when the nativity play is 'suppressed", as the Rt Rev Dr David Jenkins suggests it should be (Another View; "Separating the nativity from the naivety", 18

remember. I know that for very many children this is possibly

a permanent audio-visual record

of live stage performance in

Britain as a national research

and educational resource for

performing arts professionals,

Forty productions have now

been recorded - most recently

Taking Sides, Mojo, The Second

Mrs Kong and King Arthur. These

are archival recordings of stage

performances and are not there-

fore intended for broadcast.

However they are of a very high-

quality and are proving invalu-

able for all those wishing to view

students and public.

past productions.

Head of Press and

Theatre Museum

Yours sincerely,

SUE ROLFE

Publicity

of teachers

From Mr I. Starkie Sir. I, along with my colleagues. am thoroughly sickened by the incessant attack on our professionalism ("Schools need much more than money", 16 December). It is the end of a long term and we are generally on our traces, having spent humb breaks knees, having spent lunch breaks. evenings and weekends during term time struggling to enhance the experiences and achievements of the children in our charge, in addition to the gruelling task of managing and teaching students in groups of 30 or more within a teaching day.

In my current school, and in any of the previous six schools l have taught in, I simply do not recognise the foot-dragging, lud-dite, lazy image which, knowingly or not, Chris Woodhead and others in the distant ivory towers of Whitehall portray of teachers.

What I completely fail to idenstand is why Mr Woodhead is attempting to create a false dichotomy of class size versus quality of teaching. It is obvious to all that quality of teaching is vitally important. However it is equally self-evident that pupil-toteacher ratio is of just as much influence in the experience of children. You only have to look at the comparative studies of pupil attainment in France and Germany with those in Britain, then look at the staff/student ratios in the three countries, to arrive at that conclusion. Yours faithfully.

. STARKJE Plymouth, Devon

17 December

Civil liberties on the slippery slope

From Ms Anna Coote. Sir. David Aaronovitch cites me in his interview with Jack Straw (Section Two; "Labour's Essex man", 20 December) as a representative of "liberal-minded folk" concerned with the rise of social authoritarianism in the ranks of new Labour. OK, I admit it. Next he accuses me of gut-level alle-giance with "fifthy; intimidating, obscenity-shouting addicts" and indifference to the fears of "lit-

lawful business Good grief! Can it be true? I started to publish weekly tables of thought I was mounting a defence of civil liberties. I lifestyle-associated risk in order that individuals and society may thought I was voicing alarm at the exclusive, punitive "communi-tarian" ideas which have seduced Driving smoking and lack of exercise at the top, attack from some of our politicians. I had no idea I was on the slippery slope to decadence and disorder. Lock me up, Jack, before I do any

Sir. I am interested in the reasons why so many parents favour private education. Is the real problem for the unpopular state From Mr K. Milnes

Dalyell and/or Godfrey Agnew got the Chinese proverb wrong obitnary, 14 December). It is, of course, "fortunate are those who live in counteresting times" - a much more oriental comment. Yours faithfully. K. MILNES Huddersfield:

independent investigation".

I can assure you that our inquiry will be thorough and impartial. It will seek to get at the truth. The Police Complaints Authority has always jealously guarded its independence and I do not believe that any other form of inquiry could get nearer to discovering what happened. Yours faithfully,

Deputy Chairman (Investigation) Police Complaints Authority London, SŴ1 20 December

Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail; letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters. Back issues of the Indepen

Impartial inquiry on Wayne Douglas

From Mr John Cartwright Sir: Your editorial ("Bulls in Brixton's china shop", 13 December) on the death of Wayne Douglas said "his death requires an

dest are available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 906609.

London, WC2 20 December

JOHN CARTWRIGHT

Letters should be addressed to

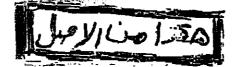
tle old ladies going about their

Yours faithfully, Anna Coote Deputy Director Institute for Public Policy

Research London, WC2 20 December

Interesting point

schools the pupils who attend Sir. I am surprised that Tam



comment

Why the ranters are right about EMU

European politicians are stupid to pursue monetary union. And if they join together by the year 2010, they'll repent by 2020

When the politicians and the ordinary people disagree, trust the ordinary people.

And so it will be with the "Euro", the new European cur-rency, the name of which was agreed last weekend. A grand battle is beginning in earnestbetween the commonsense instincts of ordinary peo-ple and the plans of Europe's most important politicians.

There is enormous momentum behind those plans, for the government machines of Germany and France (plus, of course, the European bureaucracy) support them. Even here in Britain, the most semi-



detached of the large European Union nations, the leaderships of both our main parties do not dare to say publicly that Europe's plans are mad. And much of the British business Establishment not only supports a common currency, but would like Britain to join in the plan.

By contrast, opposition to monetary union is fragmented and relatively inarticulate. It exists, of course, as is evidenced by strings of opinion polls. But within the European establishment the pockets of opposition are either muzzled, or can be dismissed as representing sectional interests.

Thus, while the "pros" appear to be the measured and respon-sible insiders; the handful of politicians with access to the media who put the counter case - people such as John Redwood - too often come over either as extremist ranters, or nostalgies, or as driven more by personal ambition than rational analysis.

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Sec. 18

Because it is only rarely that the sensible case against monetary union is set out, there is eople will allow themselves to be persuaded that the mea-



sured men are right and the

In fact there is a powerful case to be made that a currency union is technically the incorrect form for the European economy, and an absolutely overwhelming case that it is unnecessary for Europe's economic prosperity.

The technical case has been

made this week - ironically, a couple of days after the christening of the Euro - by the OECD, the economic "club" of the world's richest nations. Its latest Economic Outlook gives a cool assessment of the difficulties Europe faces. It starts, the theoretical advantages of a common currency: removing the risk and costs of having exchange rate adjustments would make cross-border trade easier and allow companies to concentrate on spotting opportunities based on changes in demand, tastes, and so on.

This takes up 20 lines of text. There follow 140 lines on the problems. Some of these are transitional. But the OECD highlights a further set of problems that would occur once the common currency was in place. At the moment countries can adapt their monetary policies to local needs: they can meet recession by dropping short-term interest rates and if necessary allowing the currency to depreciate. With a common currency they would not be able to do this.

Instead, they would have to adjust by cutting wages, or by encouraging workers to migrate to another part of the EU, or by having the more buoyant parts of Europe transfer funds (taxing the richer parts and subsidising

the poorer ones). The United States does make just such adjustments through migration and fiscal transfers, but within Europe migration is much more limited (and causes considerable tension), while the relatively tiny transfer of taxes by Brussels is politically very unpopular. Without those mechanisms there would have to be swings in money wages, "and there are limits," the OECD says, "to the speed with which nom-

inal wages are likely to adjust." You can see the point. If people can move around in search of jobs and if rich areas subsidise poor, then you can have a single currency and single monetary policy. If not, you can't. Provided the European economy operates as a single entity, responding in the same way to economic forces from around the world, then a common monetary policy will adapt to its needs. But if different parts of the Enropean economy are affected in different ways, then

monetary policy cannot cope. The key question is: to what extent does the European economy behave as a single entity? Some parts do: Germany, the Netherlands and Austria are almost completely integrated economies. But the rest of the EU is not. For example, if world oil prices rise, the impact on the British balance of payments is positive, but on virtually the whole of the rest of the EU it is negative. If there is a boom in the world demand for machine tools, Germany benefits, but the impact elsewhere is muted.

There are also differences in financial structure between the various European economies. such as the size of the owneroccupied housing sector, the importance of short-term borrowings, the importance of stock-market finance. A single change in interest rates will produce different effects.

richer by boosting its internal trade (particularly since, for demographic reasons alone, it will be a slow-growing region): instead, it can get richer principally by increasing its trade with the rapidly growing countries of East Asia and its own economic hinterland of Eastern Europe

If that is where the EU's prosperity lies (and I believe it s) then a single currency is an irrelevance.

Besides, countries such as Hong Kong and Singapore, tiny by comparison to most EU nations, have managed to achieve European living stan-dards without the need to be

The key question is: to what extent does the European economy behave as a single entity?

members of a large currency union, while two of the richest European nations, Norway and Switzerland, have decided to stay outside the EU altogether. Ireland, one non-core EU memher that might opt to join EMU. chose to break its currency union with Britain in 1978, and subsequently (thanks in part to EU subsidies) has grown faster than the UK. Clearly prosperity can be achieved by small countries that run their own currencies.

If there are all these rational arguments against a currency union, why is the EU marching on towards one? It is a big question and deserves a big answer. I think it is one of those cases where rational individuals behave in a collectively stupid way. Heavens knows, there are plenty of examples in European history, the most extreme being the mixture of arrogance and madness that led to the First World War, and the weakness and vaciliation that led to the Second. For supporters of monetary union, their dream is almost a compensation for ment; if we do not move forward we will slide back.

Not true. We can reach a plateau: a level of cultural and economic unity that recognises diversity and respects it. If, on But think what specialisation the other hand, politics pushes means. It means turning over beyond economic reality, it more and more of the economy does risk disaster. The UK will probably be saved by its optingly on exports to pay for outs, but my fear is that France these. At some stage we are and Germany will indeed going to reach the point where achieve a currency union in the there is not much to be gained first decade of the next century. by increasing trade between If they do, it will will break up similar countries; wealth will be acrimoniously in the second generated more by trade and will come to be judged as a grand historical error. We will wonder how sensible people point where it can no longer get came to be so stupid.

The great American stalemate

Both Republicans and Democrats raised hopes, then dashed them. There is a lesson here for Tony Blair

ical system, a few days in Washington DC is a fine way of putting it all into perspective. We haven't had — and all but one of them are gov-Whitehall shut down for lack of money, or the sort of institutional erned by Republicans.

Then there's the uncertainty of the control of the gridlock that has brought the US government into disrepute and chaos. But the American election campaign coming next year will be full of resonance for us.

The conventional wisdom is now that Clinton, having climbed from the depths of public disgust and evaded the probing fingers of the Whitewater affair, will be tri-umphantly re-elected, the first Democratic president to gain more than one victory since Franklin D Roosevelt. Clinton will manage this not

because of anything he has actually

done, but for three negative reasons. First, the best-known conservative, Newt Gingrich, is even more hated for his tantrums, taint of personal corruption and partisan aggression. Second, because the Republicans haven't et been able to muster a candidate any more charismatic than the ageing Bob Dole, a man with a large reputation for smallness of spirit. And third, because many natural conservatives are so disgusted with mainstream politics that they are likely to turn to a third-party candidate such

as Ross Perot. America's dilemma is summarised by the dark-coloured words spinning through that last paragraph of plain description — "hated", "tantrums", "corruption", "smallness of spirit", "disgusted". They too have a two-party system and they too seem to be increasingly distillusioned by it. There is a good counter-intuitive

case to be made against another round rainy lowa.

If you think there are signs of Clinton victory. For instance, the degeneration in the British polit-collapse of the Democrats in the US

Then there's the unpredictable effect of the race itself. The Republican primary contest has been an extraordinary media turn-off. With Colin Powell a non-runner, there has been nobody much to challenge Dole. The Washington pundits and television stations have focused instead on the great budget battle between Congress and the White House, leaving wouldbe Republican presidents, including such once-notorious figures as Pat Buchanan, to slog round the talk-show and cable TV circuit.

It has had its funny side: the Washington Post recently reported on the frustration of "candidates who have spent more than 350 days campaigning in lowa" without benefit of the airtime they had expected. One of them, the terminally uncharismatic Texan senator, Phil Gramm, came off his high horse and pleaded with the mere handful of reporters who turned up one stormy night at his meeting: "I came to Iowa to be covered. You've

got to cover me." Since Clinton seems virtually uncontested as the Democratic candidate, this expense of spirit in a waste of indifference is likely to continue for some time. But once the race proper heats up, the reporters and cameras will be back, mistakes will be amplified and anything can happen. It's worth recalling how pointless the Democratic struggle over who would challenge the "unbeatable" George Bush seemed when Clinton himself was slogging



ANDREW MARR Columnist of the Year

Many Americans are so disgusted that they are likely to turn to a third-party candidate

But whether it's Clinton, Dole or Senator X who wins the 1996 White House contest, there are enough underlying signs of sickness in the American political system to worry all apparatchiks. Both main parties are ighly unpopular, for reasons that are blatantly advertised by the long struggle over the budget.

Both Clinton in 1992 and the

Republican "revolutionaries" who stormed Congress two years later had won by promising to be different, to cut through the capital's culture of closed deals and postponed decisions. Clinton was going to reinvent gov-ernment, "end welfare as we know it" and repudiate the old Democrat lobbies still present in Congress. Once installed, though, he blinked and backed down.

Newt's revolutionary guard, meanwhile, were going to reclaim government for the little guy, forcing through a balanced budget. In the event they have been tougher than expected on

the poor, who don't vote, or vote ernment libertarians to moderate Democrat, but have backed away from the bold promises to reform polities by tackling campaign financing, the special-interest groups and term limits for Congress.

As Clinton, Dole and Gingrich and welfare for the poorest in Amer-ica, some \$100bn of direct and indirect subsidies to big business was barely grazed. As one political analyst put it to me: "The Republicans droitly rode a tide of anti-government populism into Congress. But they haven't brought down the temple and thrown out the corrupt political class."

Both parties, in other words, have raised hopes for a real change in American politics, then dashed them. Hence the sour mood among voters and the readiness to contemplate a radical break with what still seems an

old order.
Dissident Democrats as well as Republicans hoped that Powell would be their man, but the general declined. Now strange little Perot, jugeared, provocative, with a simple chirpy message, is back on the stump. Will Marshall, of the Democratic Leadership Council (roughly equivalent to the modernisers of "new Labour" here) warns that "we may have an organised independent party in up to 40 states in '96."

In just 18 days recently, Perot registered 120,000 voters in California to get the Reform Party on to the ballot - considered quite a feat by the pro-fessionals. Pollsters differ on just how big the disillusioned centre of US pol-

suburbanites. But they are united in finding the traditional pro-big-business Republicans and the inner-city, trade-union-financed Democrats equally uninspiring.

In the shorter term, this revulsion argued about the future of health care from the old parties is unlikely to achieve much beyond helping Clinton in his battle with Dole. But there is a shift in the tectonic plates of American politics which could in time shake and then transform the party system. As things stand, the Democrats, with their inner-city "rotten boroughs" and lack of popular appeal are the

biggest likely losers. The great irony for a British observer is that the "new Democrat" reform movement was formed a decade ago partly because of the example of the doomed Labour Party. Now, though, as Marshall says, Tony Blair is admired in Washington: "Labour is a disciplined party with a directed intelligence; Blair can make it stick. We can't make it stick." He, like other reformist Democrats, is worried about Clinton, gloomy about his rickety party, and concerned about the longer-term future of

American politics. To come to Washington and hear Labour praised is a novel experience. But there is a warning for Blair here, too: in politics there are few things more dangerous than arousing popular optimism and expectation of change, and then failing to deliver it. In different ways, both Republicans and Democrats are guilty of just this sin. Last week they seemed locked like exhausted wrestlers in a grip neither could escape. At the century's end, America is bored and angry with the spectacle; the year ahead may show how bored, and how angry.

And look at the current economic cycle. The Anglo-

Saxon economies - the US,

UK. Canada and Australia ~

have all moved a clear 18

months ahead of continental

Europe, where monetary policy

was determined by the needs of

not going to occur again, but

other shocks will. And once a

common currency is established.

breaking up is hard to do. Besides, we don't need

EMU. The presumption that

the European economy ought

to become more integrated is

wrong. It is quite true that the

great burst of prosperity in the

last 30 years has been associ-

ated with each country special-

ising more and more. In every

EU member the proportion of exports to GDP rose between

to imports, and relying increas-

between dissimilar countries.

Europe may be reaching a

1960 and 1994.

That particular experience is

German unification.

ANOTHER VIEW David Woodhead

In the name of fairness, keep assisted places

1 snobbery, whether found in independent schools or state schools with more socially acceptable catchment areas than others. But even she is open to the charge of cosy

In Buying more than just a good education (2) December) she comof forts herself with the thought that, wherever she lived and like most people who can afford it, I would be secure in the knowledge that I still had the choice to go private if I didn't like the way things were going in a state school. Bully for Polly. She then attacks Isis for producing

T share Polly Toynbee's distaste for a bulletin on behalf of parents less well off than her but no less anxious to secure the best education for their children. We challenged Labour to come clean on its plans for independent schools, not by misrepresenting its position but by quoting its leading The main issue is the choice which

is open to Polly Toynbee because she can afford it, but which, under Labour, will be closed to others because they cannot. It will be closed because the assisted places scheme will be phased out.

Why? Because even new Labour cannot accept academic selection.

But intelligence has rightly been described as a genuinely classless commodity. It is therefore a fairer way of selecting pupils than by income

Professor Joan Freeman revealed a similar blind spot in her letter on 19 December. Her interpretation of research by Professor Peter Saunders and the link she made with assisted places combined superficiality with іпасситасу. The research did not show state

schools "are doing as well by their pupils" as independent schools: it was not a study of schools' current performances but of a cohort of people

born nearly 40 years ago. More reliable guides to performance are Department for Education and Employment statistics. They show pupils at all ability levels in indepen-dent schools achieving better results than candidates at other schools.

Professor Freeman's assertions about the backgrounds and performance of pupils on the assisted places scheme do not bear scrutiny. Research does not show that "most of the chosen children are from professional homes", it shows that at least eight out of 10 are working class and lower middle class. Last year, assisted place pupils had an overall pass rate

of 93.48 per cent (51.26 per cent at grades A and B) at A-level and 91.84 per cent (73.91 per cent at grades A and B) at GCSE. More than 90 per cent went on to university degree courses.

Such impressive outcomes fully vindicate investment in the government scheme. They should even persuade Polly Toynbee to join the campaign to preserve it for the benefit of those whose resources are more limited than hers.

The writer is national director of the Independent Schools Information

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BUSINESS NEWS DESK tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Bank breakthrough: Initial compensation to be at least 20p in the pound - Head of criticised supervision operation announces early departure

BCCI creditors to pocket first payout in summer

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

More than 35,000 long-suffering British creditors of the disgraced Bank of Credit and Commerce International will see their first compensation payout of at least 20p in the pound by next summer. The final obstacle was cleared in a Luxembourg court vesterday, ending years of frustration and uncertainty since the bank was closed by regulators in July 1901 following the discovery of massive long-term fraud.

Sources at Touche Ross, the liquidators, suggested that the first payout might eventually be higher, but this can only be de-cided in April 1996. The liquidators, who are seeking to recover as many of the assets as possible on behalf of creditors. also hope that large funds will be available for further compensation payments from the several

litigation cases under way, BCCI, closed by the Bank of England and regulators in the two other jurisdictions where it was registered. Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, left more than Chriof debts. Of the 250,000 creditors world-wide, some 35,000 are based in the UK, a large proportion of them

from the Asian community. About 30 local councils are owed a total of £82m, which they lost in deposits at the bank. Worst hit was the West-

ern Isles council, which lost £24m. Until now British creditors have only received payments under the Bank of England's Depositors Protection Fund, with a maximum of

Although the first settlement deal with Abu Dhabi, the majority shareholder, was signed as long ago as the summer of 1992, creditors hopes of receiving some money have been constantly thwarted by a series of court delays. Legal agreement was necessary from all three jurisdictions, but Luxembourg has proved the source of most of the difficulties.

Yesterday marked the re-moval of the final technical hurdle, as the Luxembourg court formally approved the earlier withdrawal of an appeal against the settlement from four former BCCI employees.

The liquidators have so far retrieved some £2.2bn, including £1.2bn in a settlement with Abu Dhabi, and the remainder from funds located in the US and a settlement with Saudi Arabia's most prominent banking family.

However, only £1.3bn or so is likely to be used for the first tranche of the compensation payout, as the liquidators are required to withhold funds to complete the heavy litigation schedule and as a contingency for the myriad of disputes in the

The biggest potential pot of money for creditors and former employees of the bank is the litigation being pursued by Touche Ross. The liquidators are suing the Bank of England over misfeasance in public office". Touche Ross claims the

Bank failed in its role as regu-

lator of BCCI. The liquidators are also suing Luxembourg's banking regulator, the Institut Monetaire Luxembourgeois. The biggest action of all is against BCCI's auditors, Price Waterhouse, for a claim of £2bn plus interest. Price Waterhouse recently announced plans to seek protection for its audit business from legal claims by re-registering it in Jersey, but this would not help against the BCCI claim, the biggest outstanding against the

auditing profession.

BCCl. founded in Luxembourg by the Pakistan businessman Agha Hassan Abedi in 1972, collapsed after a string of investigations into its affairs showed widespread evidence of money-laundering, fraud and

A US judge hearing evidence into one of the cases dubbed the bank "the most corrupt in history". The CIA admitted using BCCI to move money involved in drug stings. Many former officials of the bank have been jailed or fined following investigations and court cases into the bank's collarse.



Quinn plans retirement from Bank

PETER RODGERS

Brian Quinn, the executive director of the Bank of England who was responsible for banking supervision, is to retire in February, nine months before his 60th birthday.

The Bank flatly denied suggestions that his departure was linked with the Barings collapse in February - though there was criticism of the supervision department in a report in the summer which led to the resignation of Christopher Thompson, one of its enior officials.

Mr Quinn's career as a senior executive in banking supervi-sion and then as executive director in over-all charge has spanned three traumatic episodes in the Bank of England's recent history. They were the collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers in 1984, when the Bank bought the company for £1 to save the bullion market from panic; the collapse of Bank of Credit and Commerce International in 1991; and the Barings collapse in February.

Quinn had told Eddie George, the Governor, more than a year ago - before the Barings crash - that he would not be seeking a further term as a director when his present term expired in February 1996. The Bank was unable to say if Mr Quinn, a Glaswegian, was mov-

Glasgow football club. The Bank said it was unusual for executive directors to stay on past 60, though there had been

ing elsewhere, though there

have been rumours that he is to

become chairman of Celtic, the

A Bank spokesman said Mr cases. All appointments to the Quinn had told Eddie George, court are for four years and Mr Quinn would have to stay until the age of 63 if he served an-Mr Quinn's post as executive

director is to be filled by Michael Foot, head of banking supervision. Sir John Hall, who developed Newcastle's Metro Centre, and John Neill, chief executive of Unipart, become non-executive directors, replacing Sir Christopher Hogg and Professor Sir Roland Smith. Mervyn King has been reap-



challe

Mixed signals: Housing market shows signs of improvement while a decline in imports signals a run-down in manufacturers' stockpiles

Trade deficit fall 'sign of weakening economy' DIANE COYLE and NIC CICUTTI

PAUL WALLACE Economics Editor

Britain's trade balance with countries outside the European Union improved unexfor eight months, But economists warned that one reason for the improvement - a fall in imports - signalled that the economy was set to weaken as manufacturers ran down excess

The non-EU trade deficit was £500m in November, down from the record £1.2bn in October and half what the markets had been expecting. Official statisticians said that the trend deterioration in the balance had halted.

Exports jumped by £500m to reach a record £5.8bn. Erratic items - principally the sale of a warship to Saudi Arabia - acports. But the underlying trasted with an 8 per cent tinental Europe.

volume – stripping out erratics and oil – rose by 5 per cent. The increase in exports was to

all areas outside the European Union, Sales to North America increased by £100m and have last three months compared

There was a particularly sharp jump in the volume of finished manufactures. These rose by 7 per cent in the three months ending November compared with the previous three months. "If the world performs - and this month's data suggest the US is buying again - then so, too, will manufacturing industry."

said Geoffrey Dicks, UK econ-

omist at NatWest Markets. Exporters cut their prices for finished goods in November. In the three months ending November, prices rose by just I per cent compared with the previcounted for half the rise in ex- ous three months. This con-

increase on last year. This, said Mr Dicks, suggested that "UK exporters are pricing more aggressively to obtain sales in a difficult world environment."

Imports fell by £200m to now risen by 11 per cent in the £6.3bn. The fall was concentrated in part-finished goods, rundown in inventories has begun. "This is the first significant evidence that manufacturers are no longer rebuilding stocks," said Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel.

The principal concern now is that the upturn in exports to countries outside the EU will be offset by a downturn in exports to the EU as demand weakens on the Continent.

A survey by Royal Bank of Scotland revealed that smaller exporters have become less optimistic about export prospects in the next year, mainly because of worries about sales to Con-

Hopes that the housing market might finally be inching its way out of its deepest slump in more than 20 years grew vesterday after figures from building societies and banks showed that the number of prospective borrowers climbed significantly last month.

The Building Societies Association said the estimated number of would-be borrowers reached 48,000 in November, up from 42,000 the previous month. There was also a sharp rise in societies' mortgage lending.

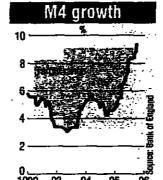
In a further sign of buoyancy in the economy, high street banks reported the secondhighest amount of new lending to the personal sector. Loans dipped slightly below October's record level.

In addition, broad money growth, fuelled by the sharp increase in personal loans, burst above the Government's 3-9 per cent target range for the first

that the next rate cut might be yesterday: "Given that new The broad measure of money supply, M4, grew by 9.3 per cent delayed a little." in the 12 months to November, the first time it has breached the

10 weeks before the loan takes target since its introduction in early 1993. The Chancellor of place, are often seen as a the Exchequer and Governor of longer-term indicator of the the Bank of England cited rapid ing market. growth of broad money as a reason for cutting base rates by only a quarter point last week. Simon Briscoe, UK econo-

mist at the securities firm Nikko, said: "Its strength will prompt more people to think



The building societies' mortgage commitments, made about

Societies buoyant at surge in borrowing

Fuelling hopes that these figures are not a short-term blip, the number of commitments was up by 7.4 per cent in the three months to

November. Lending by the societies rose sharply, up from £295m in October to £865m. Future new loan agreements hit £3.2bn, up from almost £2.9bn in the

previous month. Fears that the societies' upward lending trend was due to the continuing price war with large high street banks were dispelled by further figures from the British Bankers' Association. These showed that the banks' home loans grew from £616m to £677m over the

same period. Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC Greenwell, said

commitments are by far the best indicator of [future] activity and prices, the outlook for the housing market is now very Adrian Coles, director gen-

eral of the Building Societies Association, described the figures as a "welcome reversal" of previously bad results. He said it was hoped they signalled the start of a modest recovery Thanks to the two recent reductions in mortgage rates.

home loan costs are at their lowest level since 1968. Tim Sweeney, director gen-eral of the BBA, said: "Personal credit demand continued to be

buoyant in November." At £947m, new lending to individuals was just over £200m below the previous month's

Kevin Darlington, UK economist at the brokers Hoare Govett, said: "It would appear that the personal sector is

starting to borrow and spend Other lending by the big

British banks was more subdued last month. An increase of £93m in lending to manufacturing, mainly to the transport. electrical engineering and food. drink and tobacco industries. was more than offset by a massive £719m repayment of loans by securities firms.

Their pattern of borrowing and repayments is highly errat-ic, so the underlying trend in bank lending was stro the total suggested.

Last month's repayment meant total new lending by banks and building societies dipped by £2bn to £3.4bn in November, to a level 8.2 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Some City economists said the lending figure was inflated by the fact that the Government had not funded all of its deficit through gilt sales last month. The public sector therefore accounted for £2.9bn of November's bank borrowing.

This suggests that some of the strength of lending could unwind in coming months.

Comment, page 17

Hanson lays axe to debt with £1.5bn US disposals



STOCK MARKETS

Deputy City Editor

Hanson took a big step towards its goal of raising £2bn from disposals yesterday, announcing the sale of Cavenham Forest Industries and a part-flotation of Suburban Propane, two of its largest US businesses, for a

The deals will cut a swathe through group borrowings, expected to rise to £4.7bn once Hanson pays £2.5bn for Eastern Group, the regional electricity company it acquired earlier this year. Those debts would have represented 130 per cent

1995 Lew

said recently would be aggres-

sively reduced. Mr Bonham said yesterday: These disposals are part of our programme to concentrate on fewer, larger activities. Proceeds will be used to strengthen the balance sheet and invest in our existing major businesses."

Hanson is focused on chemicals, consumer goods, including tobacco, energy and building materials.

Attention now turns to the timing of Hanson's sale of its stake in the National Grid. which it has said it will unload

of shareholders' funds, a level at some stage. That could raise largest timberland owner in berek Bonham, chief executive, over £400m, which would be the US, Cavenham owns some takeover of Consolidated Gold to the US, Cavenham owns some takeover of Consolidated Gold Fields. boosted by the widely-tipped disposal of Seven Seas, the

vitamin brand. Hanson says it plans to sell about 62 per cent of Suburban Propane through a public offering of 18.75 million shares in the US's third-largest retail propane distributor. The offer. and a related debt issue, will

Cavenham Forest Industries. which owns and manages 1.75 million acres of prime US timberland and a substantial number of sawmills, is expected to raise a further £1bn. The ninth-

raise about £500m for Hanson.

of the world's most productive softwood-growing sites in Ore-gon, Washington, Louisiana and Mississippi.

after a dramatic improvement in its underlying performance. Since its acquisition, Cavenham's forest growth has exceeded harvests by 36 per cent and its margins and productivity have increased markedly.

Cavenham came into the group when Sir James Goldsmith swapped it for a stake in Newmont Mining, which Hanson gained through its 1989

William Landuyt, chief executive of Hanson Industries, the conglomerate's US arm, said: Having dramatically increased Cavenham is being sold on Cavenham's timber margins and brought its mills up to world-class productivity, these prime assets are now worth more to buyers with specific timber needs or adjacent forests."

The proposed Suburban deal sees Hanson retaining a 32 per cent stake in a new limited partnership designed to allow the company to expand by issuing new partnership units to acquire other propane distributors.

France Telecom aims for 50% traffic boost

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

France Telecom intends to build telephone traffic by nearly 50 per cent by 2000 and to outpace the competition following tele-com liberalisation, according to the first public statements of its new chief executive, Michel

Speaking in Paris, Mr Bon said an emphasis on building out the company's mobile phone network, along with a greater focus on customers, would gen-erate an additional 50 billion minutes of telephone use, ris-ing to 170 billion within five

end of the decade, and a programme of investment and fresh hiring would be launched from early 1996.

He added that cost-cutting and lower basic rates could generate sales 25 per cent higher than currently, allowing the state-owned operator to expand strengths. even if it loses market share to newcomers after the market is fully deregulated in 1998.

The plans were part of a rad-

to consumer demand, he said. and competition would force the pace of change, Mr Bon said. Daily use of telephones in France is eight minutes, compared with 20 minutes in

"We must reduce this gap," he said, "and this is achievable given that our standards of living are roughly comparable." He warned, however, that the company would have to gain

regime if it was to safeguard its He said that the mobile network would grow to cover as work. Mr Bon said the many as 5 million users by the end of the decade and public service mandate. puter infrastructure for telephone services was crucial to his plans. He spent three months speaking to more than 1,000 France Telecom employees, and concluded that "our technical ability and innovative sense" (

> Mr Bon was a compromise candidate for the France Telecom post, following disagreements between his predecessors

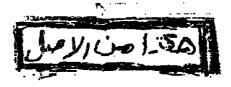
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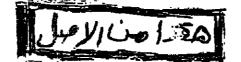


make the giant company less hierarchical and more receptive Lower prices, new products

America. greater flexibility in its pricing

were the company's greatest

ical restructuring that would and the French government.



business



The embarrassments of the last 10 days might have been. avoided if there had been full disclosure of all the details of the lottery bids and Mr Davis's investigations

had been conducted

in full public view

Unsackable should not mean unaccountable A s Virginia Bottomley has just discovered, it seems to be about as easy to remove

one of Britain's regulators from office as it is to impeach an American president. At least is to impeace an American president. At least two cabinet ministers, including Mrs Bottomley, have sought advice from civil ser-vants and lawyers about whether sacking a regulator is within their powers. Each time they have been told that, short of a regula-tory Watergate, they should not bother to try.

The joke of it is that Westminster sources have been suggesting that Mrs Bottomley refrained on political grounds from getting rid of Peter Davis, the lotteries regulator, because senior ministers persuaded her that a sacking would overshadow the success of the lottery. Mr Davis's terms of employment suggest a rather simpler explanation. The lotteries legislation says he can only be removed from office on the grounds of "incapacity or misbehaviour". The plain fact is that if she had sacked him and he had dug his heels in and gone to court, he might have won.

Mr Davis was foolish to accept free flights from GTech against the advice of civil servants. But he certainly did not do it as a result of incapacity, and to prove in court that it was misbehaviour would be an uphill struggle. The word implies deliberate misconduct rather than incompetence or bad judgement. It would probably take more than acceptance of free flights to demonstrate misbehaviour.

So who was the other regulator whose minister asked for advice about whether | could come of opening the books of Camelot

Stephen Littlechild of Offer after his decision to reopen the electricity pricing review last spring. The same legal phrase - dismissal only on grounds of "incapacity or misbehaviour"-also protects other key regulators such as Don Cruickshank of Oftel and

Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas.

The phrase appears in the legislation for very good reason. It allows regulators to deliberate with the independence and freedom from interference of the judiciary. From an investors' point of view, it also protects privatised companies from arbitrary pressure from ministers, for example to reduce prices,

But checks and balances are missing. As well as being unsackable, regulators are pretty nearly unaccountable and their workings are far from transparent. There are difficulties with increasing accountability, either to Parliament or ministers, because it would undermine that treasured independence, The practical alternative, which would do just as much to increase the public confidence that is so clearly lacking, is a much

increased level of openness.

The best example of how not to run a regulator is Mr Davis's own little empire at Oflot, though the fault lies not so much with him as with the legal framework in which he operates. Camelot, the company he oversees, is a monopoly working under a licence from government to a contract awarded by the regulator. It is hard to see what harm and Oflot to all corners, yet Mr Davis oper- | ates in a ludicrously unnecessary atmosphere of secrecy, all justified by commercial con-

fidentiality.

The embarrassments of the last 10 days might well have been avoided if there had been full disclosure of all the details of the original lottery bids, and if Mr Davis's investigations and negotiations had been conducted in full public view. This is a lesson for all Britain's army of regulators as well as a pointer to the need for urgent reform.

Captain Oates defence will not help Forte

The High Court does not seem to have ac-transport things very much by ruling that the grandly named, and equally grandly staffed, Council of Forte, should decide for the High Court does not seem to have aditself what to do about Granada's £3.3bn hostile takeover bid. In theory, the council can decide the outcome of the bid by exercising archaic powers which give its tiny fraction of the company's capital more than 50 per cent of the voting rights. In practice it will find itself back in court if it does anything other than stand aside and let the main body of shareholders decide.

For other shareholders, the decision is becoming a more finely balanced one than it looked at the outset, when Forte's days as an independent company looked limited to the 60-day duration of a normal bid

all with its willingness to take on board quite radical break-up and restructuring proposals. It has also achieved some success in undermining Granada's case which, given the quality and expense of bidder's advice, has on occasions been put forward in an alarmingly sloppy and ill-thought-out way. Even so, there is little love lost between Forte and its main institutional shareholders, many of whom are still smarting all these years later over Lord Forte's decision to perpetuate the dynasty by appointing his own son as successor. One question for Sir Rocco, therefore, is whether he should further spice up the defence by sacrificing himself - the socalled Captain Oates defence whereby the top man hits the ejector button to save the rest ("I'm going out, I may be some time"). But however sore shareholders still feel about the manner of Sir Rocco's appointment, we are in truth past the time for tinkering around at the top. For better or for worse, Forte will

Misbehaving M4 causes concern

his promise for the future.

coodhart's law states that if the govern-Iment has a serious target for something, it is bound to miss it. The eponymous Pro fessor Goodhart is now at the LSE but at the time he first made this observation he was with

have to stand or fall by Sir Rocco's record and

timetable. Since then Forte has astonished | the Bank of England. He drew up the law with reference to money supply targets in the early monetarist days of Thatcherism. The current broad measure of the money supply, M4, was devised to halt the embarrassment of missed forecasts in the mid-1980s, when existing monetary targets were spectacularly obeying Goodhart's law. It was the slowestgrowing alternative the Treasury could find.

Judging by yesterday's figures, M4 is now behaving no better than its predecessors. It has breached its 3-9 per cent target, introduced in March 1993 when the previous target turned out to be too low. Those who think the economy is in a feeble state and in need of a series of base-rate cuts are inclined to dismiss M4's misbehaviour as

largely irrelevant.
That is not a view shared by the authorities, however. Both the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England have referred to rapid money supply growth as a cause for concern and a key inflationary indi-

cator at their past three meetings.

And the money and lending figures do seem to demonstrate that there are areas of buoyancy in the economy. Furthermore, they appear to show that the housing market is reviving. Personal borrowing from the big banks last month also remained close to October's record. Yesterday's figures lend credibility to Mr Clarke's prediction that consumer spending will lead to a revival in growth in 1996 - and must put a question mark over the speed of future base rate cuts.

\$1bn legal challenge to tobacco industry

TOM STEVENSON **Deputy City Editor**

THE WAY !

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The tobacco industry came under renewed attack in the US vesterday as the state of Massachusetts filed a S1bn lawsuit against six giant cigarette companies, including Britain's BAT. The state - where more than 10,000 citizens die each year from smoking-related diseases is trying to recover the costs of treating diseases caused by the

The suit makes Massachusetts the fifth US state to take on the to be forced to tell the truth. It tobacco industry. Its action is in is time for cigarette companies addition to a well financed class action representing all smokers addicted to nicotine which is pending in New Orleans.

Massachusetts has joined Mississippi, Minnesota, Florida and West Virginia in taking on the tohacco giants. Maryland has also promised to sue, while the big companies are suing Texas, which

is considering an action.
The intensification of the acrimony between American government bodies and the industry has underlined the enormous stakes being played for in a business where volumes have grown by a quarter in the past 15 years despite declines in the mature markets of the West.

Scott Harshbarger, the state Attorney-General, said: "Today we say: enough is enough. For too long, the wrong people have paid too much in staggering human and financial costs for a poisonous product peddled by tobacco giants through allegedly deceptive means."

The 75-page complaint he filed alleges that the tobacco industry conspired to mislead the public by denying that ciga-rettes cause cancer, by denying that they are addictive and by denying that the industry ma-

nipulates nicotine levels. The suit claims \$1bn of damages based on the amount of taxpayers' funds that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has spent through Medicaid and other programmes to pay for smoking-related health-care costs. It also seeks court orders requiring the defendants to disclose their research on smoking, addiction and the health conse-

quences of smoking.
"It is time to snuff out this deadly and deceptive conspiracv. It is time for the industry done," Mr Harshbarger said. The case threatens to become

a *cause célèbre* thanks to the involvement on the state's side of Harvard Law School Professor Laurence Tribe, a constitutional law expert who argued in the landmark Cipollone case before the Supreme Court, which established that some liability claims could go forward against the industry. He has argued in more than 20 cases before the court, winning most of them.

Massachusetts' claim, with RJ Remolds counsel Daniel Donahue arguing: They seek to bypass the traditional principle that the injured party should be the one to file suit and that someone who sues on their behalf is subject to the same arguments." The tobacco industry has never paid domages or settled a tobacco liability claim, in part because plaintiffs' lawyers - who could only hope to recover damages for an in-

The defendants hit back at

eventually gave up. BAT's shares shrugged off the latest development, closing 10p higher at 554p.
Investment column, page 18



Co-Op Bank finds a unusual angle on job creation in the North



Terry Thomas, managing director of Co-Op Bank, announcing the creation of 425 jobs to be based at one of Britain's most unusual buildings, the 'Stockport Pyramid' in Greater Manchester

Ruling leaves Forte battle in air

MATHEW HORSMAN

One of the most contentious issues in the £3.3bn hostile bid by Granada for Forte was left hanging in the air last night, following a High Court ruling that the Council of Forte could make up its own mind about how to bid its 50 per cent vot-

ing stake. According to the ruling, the council - which holds just 0.08 per cent of the shares but half the votes - can accept or reject the Granada offer, or it can step aside and let ordinary share-

holders decide Forte's fate. It was widely speculated, how-ever, that the Takeover Panel dividual after years in court would force the council onto the sidelines if it decided on anything but neutrality. Granada is planning to seek additional guidance from the panel.

Meanwhile, Forte yesterday strengthened its still-tenuous defence by announcing it had raised a net £108m from the sale of its US Travelodge hotel chain just ahead of most expectations. The deal, which brings to



Sir Rocco Forte: Jockeying for position in the new year

£1.1bn the sum that Forte has raised from disposals, came as the troubled negotiations for the sale of the White Hart botel chain failed to rekindle. Forte said the talks, which stalled when a financing partner in the purchasing group bowed out. would resume in the new year.

Analysts said Forte's refusal to accept a sharp reduction in the sale price of the White Hart chain was an encouraging sign that the company would not engage in a fire sale of assets.

Forte, headed by Sir Rocco Forte, trumpeted the sale of the Travelodge properties to HFS. the economy hotel franchising company, as proof it was managing the company effectively. years' of investment in the chain, and that the price might have been higher had Forte

these assets," an insider said. Analysts were likewise concerned that the White Hart sale was coming at a bad time. "There are plenty of similar assets on the market," one ana-

The battle is expected to continue in the new year, with both sides jockeying for advantage. Analysts said vesterday that Granada would have to raise its initial offer to win.

In addition, there were signs in the City of frustration with what one analyst called Granada's "sound bite" campaign. He claimed that the company did not provide adequate detail Granada responded that the of its plans to cut up to £100m out of Forte's annual costs, and that it wrongly characterised Forte's cost structure. Comment, above

IN BRIEF

Institutions head for foreign shores

Institutional investors made a record net investment of £4.8bn in overseas securities during the third quarter of 1995. Pension funds alone invested £1.5bn, the highest for four years. While they built up their overseas holdings, pension funds ran down their investments in UK company securities to the tune of £2.1bn. Overall institutional net investment in UK equities fell by £200m. Institutional investment in gilts fell to a net £2.5bn, its lowest level for almost two years.

BT sets up in-house watchdog

BT is to form a new regulatory and compliance department to ensure that the company keeps within its licence conditions and fair trading law. The announcement comes as Don Cruickshank. the watchdog, today sets out controversial proposals for sweep-ing new powers over BT through the introduction of general anticompetitive licence conditions. BT has complained vigorously about Mr Cruickshank's intentions and there is a growing view that the company may opt to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission rather than accept the plan.

PolyGram buys Goldwyn film library

PolyGram, the music and entertainment group, has acquired the Samuel Goldwyn film and television library for \$62m. The library contains 925 films including The Madness of King George, Much Ado About Nothing and Wuthering Heights. It also includes more than 700 episodes from television. PolyGram said its growing library complemented its new film production activities. Samuel Goldwyn will use the proceeds of the disposal to restructure its

Big surge expected at Goldman Sachs

Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, is expected by New York analysis to report an £889m pre-tax profit this year, thanks to soaring US bond and stock markets and a surge of corporate takeover activity. This represents a 169 per cent increase on 1994, one of the partnership's poorest years. End-of-year profit share-outs to the investment bank's 173 partners, 33 of whom are in London, are expected to rise on average by about 30 per cent. Goldman's return on equity is reported to have more than doubled to 28.5 per cent from 10.1 per cent.

USAir optimism boosts BA

Shares in British Airways rose 4p to 467p after USAir. 25 per centowned by BA, said that its earnings for 1995 will exceed expectations. BA must decide next month whether to take up an option to increase its stake in the American operator.

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Carnaud bid faces final hurdle

RUSSELL HOTTEN

A takeover by America's Crown Cork & Seal of the Anglo-French company CarnaudMetalbox, creating the world's largest packaging company, is about to clear its final hurdles. Shares in CarnaudMetalbox were suspended in Paris and

London vesterday while the Bourse dealt with the necessary regulatory formalities for the \$5.2bn (£3.3bn) takeover.

A formal announcement of details of Crown Cork's plans, bringing together companies with combined sales of \$10bn, is expected tomorrow. Crown Cork's shareholders approved

the takeover on Tuesday. The takeover has already been given the green light by the European Commission after the two sides agreed to sell five aerosol can factories. It is thought to be the biggest merger to come before the EC.

Europe's competition officials feared that the takeover would have distorted the tinplate market, giving the two companies a 60 per cent share within the Union, against a 20

per cent share held by its nearest rival.

After the takeover the group will have a market share of about 40 per cent in food cans. The nearest competitor will be Germany's Schmalbach-Lubeca, with about 20 per cent of the

Crown Cork is offering 1.086 'units" for each CarnaudMetalbox share. Each unit is made up of 0.75 Crown ordinary shares and 0.25 preferential shares, or Fr225 (£30) in cash. Earlier this month Crown

profits warning, casting a cloud on the takeover plans. The company said its second-half earnings before charges would probably be under \$55m. against last year's \$121m. The company blamed rising raw material prices, expecially

During the summer CarnaudMetalbox issued its own profits warning and the chair-man, Jurgen Hintz, announced his resignation a few weeks later. It is thought that Mr Hintz

his bankers, led by NatWest,

already said that they are not likely to support a rescue rights issue with Mr Edwards still in the position of chairman and chief executive. The company has appointed head-hunters to look for a new chief executive. Mr Edwards, though, is confident he retains the support of

UBS and Banque Indosuez.

to fall by 15% NIC CICUTTI

Lloyd's names

The number of Lloyd's names. who help to underwrite the beleaguered market's insurance activities, will plummet by almost 15 per cent to a new low of less than 13,000 next year. The new figures, revealed

by Lloyd's yesterday, compare with a high of almost 32,000 in 1988, before the market faced a wave of claims that have almost brought it to its knees. Insurance underwriting capacity, the maximum amount of premium income the market can underwrite, will also dip from almost £10.2bn last year to about £9.85bn in 1996.

The shift towards corporate underwriting was given fresh emphasis by the announcement that individual members will contribute about £6.85bn, or 69 per cent, towards the amount. This compares with £7.8bn, or 77 per cent ,the previous year, when just under 15,000 names were prepared to underwrite the

vear to more than £3bn in 1996. is being provided by 165 members in 71 corporate member groups. New corporate mem-bers, 25 in all, have enough funds to underwrite £363m of capacity, while an extra £289m has been allocated to existing

corporate members.

Despite the names' exodus. David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, declared himself satisfied with the new figures. "[They] clearly demonstrate the resilience of both the traditional membership and the established and new corporate members," he said. "Corporate capacity at

Lloyd's has now virtually doubled since it commenced underwriting in 1994. We take all this as a strong vote of confidence in Lloyd's at a time of radical change."

Mr Rowland said he also understood the reasons for a tailoff in underwriting capacity. "The allocated figures reflect the managing agents' views of this stage of the insurance cy-Corporate capacity, which is cle, when rates are under presincreasing from £2.36bn this sure in some areas," he said.

Fighting talk from Coal Investments

DAVID HELLIER

Malcolm Edwards, chairman and chief executive of the struggling mining group Coal Investments, vesterday vowed that the company would survive despite losing the right to mine a coal face at Hem Heath colliery near Stoke-on-Trent.

"We will survive." Mr Edwards said. "We will be profitable from January, although

our cash flow will now be much lower," he added.

Privately the former British

Coal director said yesterday that he had no intention of relinquishing his post as chairman. "I have a firm determination to see this thing through," he said.

Coal Investments asked for its shares to be suspended on Tuesday after Staffordshire County Council refused planning permission for the Rowhurst seam

at Hem Heath. The company was relying on the extra coal and revenue from the Hem Heath colliery to support a refinancing and its fourth equity issue early next year.

The company and the banks, which have instructed Arthur Andersen to give independent advice, have gone back to the drawing board to re-evaluate the basis of the rights issue.

Some institutions have 25p.

Shares were suspended at

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Waiting for gold to glitter again

In the investment world there is nothing worse than a stale bull justifying a disappointing performance with forecasts the next 12 months S&P's Gold and Exbeen doing it for years, predicting a dra-matic breakout in the bullion price are looking increasingly fully valued. since the early Eighties, when the met-al briefly approached \$1,000 an ounce.

Since those heady days, when it looked as if the world economy was heading into simultaneous slump and hyper-inflation, the gold price has trended downwards or sideways, although there was a brief surge in 1993 when George Soros and James Gold-

smith were reported to be big buyers. It came to nothing and the price has been confined in a narrow range between \$350 and \$370 an ounce this year, Yet the World Gold Council confidently predicts that world demand will reach a record 3.250 tonnes this year, far in excess of new mine supply, leaving the market dependent on supplies of scrap gold and sales by central banks.

Another reason for optimism is the response of South African mining houses to an only marginally profitable year, which traditionally is to sell gold forward and horrow metal from central banks to meet their contracts. The bullion market went into a brief flurry recently when some central banks decided to scale down the amounts of gold they were willing to supply to the market to cover those sales.

But the most exciting event in the bullion market has been the recent forecast that the world's main monetary authorities will resume regular auctions of gold reserves. That could drive down the price by \$50, at which point. the theory goes, gold would be such a bargain that every woman in India would go out and buy another bangle, triggering the long-awaited surge in gold prices. It is hardly a flawless argument. For UK private investors, if they buy

that line, the main exposure to the gold market is not physical metal, coins, or even individual gold mining shares, but the six or eight specialist unit trusts that invest in gold mining shares and exploration stocks. Gold trusts are traditionally very volatile and pay only modest dividends. Over the last three years, however, they have outperformed most other funds.

Save & Prosper's Gold and Exploration Fund, for example, claims 30 per cent compound growth over three years. This year, however, gold funds have underperformed the market. S&P is down 8 per cent since the start of the year, and Old Mutual is in the

of imminent recovery. Gold bugs have ploration could outperform general

Litigation no threat to BAT

When a state such as Massachusetts threatens litigation against your com-pany it is not something to be brushed aside lightly. Especially when it is the latest in a string of governments to try

health-care costs inflicted by smoking.
If some of the statistics relating to the evil weed are to be believed, however, it will take more than a vague threat of legal action to unsettle BAT. Litigation risk is not a new phenome-non in the tobacco industry, particulary in the US, where there have been more than 400 product liability suits since the 1950s with no material success for the plaintiffs.

With its combination of tobacco's

Trading record

Operating profit

Pre-tax profits (£m)

top 10 businesses looks assured and its year to December, the market conhandsome yield remains highly

Whether you like it or not, the world market for cigarettes is growing as new markets make up for the decline in the mature regions where smoking is fast becoming a pariah activity.

A staggering 100 billion cigarettes are

sold around the world every week, 5,300 uncertainty billion a year. Since 1980, the number has grown by almost 1,000 billion. The scope for growth continues to be enormous, with Philip Morris and BAT controlling less than 25 per cent of the world market.

BAT sells about a tenth of the world's cigarettes, in almost 200 countries, with manufacturing operations in more than 50. And its presence is growing - a year ago it made what is seen to have been a well timed and sensibly priced acquisition of American Tobacco for US\$1bn. Along with Philip Morris, RJ Reynolds and Rothmans it is one of only four genuinely international manufacturers and has the stability of real geographical diversity.

Against this background it is perhaps hardly surprising that BAT's shares cash flow and financial services, the edged up 10p to 554p yesterday. On the

Share price

sensus, the shares stand on a prospec-tive price/earnings ratio of 12. More importantly, they yield 5.4 per cent and still look good value.

Inchcape adds

Inchcape's announcement that it is to float its Bain Hogg insurance subsidiary rather than sell it does not take the embattled car distributor far forward. A float has been the intention since the company bought the Hogg business last year to merge it with its Bain Clark-sons business. A sale might have been tempting if the right offer had come along but it plainly hasn't.

Inchcape said yesterday that a num-ber of proposals had been received but not at the £400m the company has pinned its hopes on. That figure looks over-optimistic as most analysts value Rain at £240m-£260m.

Given the low ratings attached to in-surance companies, the Bain flotation is unlikely to take place until 1997. So if anything yesterday's announcement adds uncertainty rather than removes it. It also makes a cut in the dividend more likely. The company must now concentrate on trying to restructure the group, which suffered a miserable year. With its Japanese car distribu-torship hammered by the high yen, the company's shares have slumped from around 430p at the beginning of the year to just 234p now, up 4p yesterday. The indignity was compounded when Inchcape was removed from the FT-SE 100 earlier this month.

The company is concentrating on a restructure that involves cost-cutting and the disposal of loss-making businesses It is also trying to protect itself from the vagaries of the yen by building up its dis-tribution of non-Japanese cars such as Jaguar and Volvo.

However, what Inchcape really needs to hoist itself out of the mire is an improvement in external factors such as a weakening of the yen or a healthier European car market. Inch-cape shareholders have been badly bruised by the company's dire performance this year, but with analysts forecasting profits of £140m this year (down from £228m) it could be a long haul. On a forward rating of 15, the

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Sir Rocco finds fortitude under London skies

This hostile takeover business really is most tiresome. Not only has the Granda bid for Forte played bavoc with Sir Rocco's pheasant shooting. It has also done for the family Christmas holiday. Unlike last year (when the caterer learned of his ennoblement on a Caribbean island) Sir Rocco will be eschewing la dolce vita in

favour of his London desk. Not that he is complaining. No, Sir Rocco is now of the view that eight-eighths cloud cover is good for the constitution. And, he claims, he has not had so much fun in years. He is, to coin a phrase, a new man. Who wants to go to the West Indies when you can slug it out with Gerry Robinson over the fate of your inheritance?

The key to Sir Rocco's determination can probably be traced back to the day the £3.3bn bid was launched. The hotelier confesses to being deeply concerned about being caught on a pheasant shoot in Yorkshire when Gerry Robinson, the Granada marksman, let loose with both barrels. A Christmas break at Forte's £1,000-anight Sandy Beach Hotel in Barbados is no way to convince waivering shareholders

Still, if Sir Rocco is looking for a Caribbean flavour to his Christmas he can always pop over to Mr Robinson's abode in Notting Hill Gate, home of the famous London carnival.

Iceland Frozen Foods is the unlikely vehicle chosen by Rupert Murdoch to reward his loyal minions. Staff at the Times have been told that their Christmas bonus has come in the form of a free turkey youcher. This has not



Wish you were here? And miss the fun of a takeover bid?

gone down fantastically well with staff who have spent a fortune to qualify for the Tesco free Christmas turkey

News filters through from the front in the never-ending war against musical piracy. That spineless organisation, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, concedes that it has ordered a tactical withdrawal from its Canton office in China on the grounds that staff had been threatened

"The situation there became untenable when we heard from reliable sources that hitmen had been contracted on behalf of certain CD factories to halt our operation," bleats the IFPI. This is not a shutdown. The IFPI will continue to provide support for the Chinese government's initiatives against

with instant loss of life.

Suggestions that the IFPI has had about as much eff-

The November trade figures prove an early Christmas present for Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, who delights in the export effort. Apart from baguettes to France (Diary passim), we cleaned up by selling flower bulbs to the Netherlands (Anglo Flora), aquarium sand to Oman (Pet Products) and indoor ski slopes to Taiwan (Acer Snowmec).

fect as the United Nations in ciated. "The fight against piracy is always a dangerous one," insists Nic Garnett, director general of IFPL "This is not the first time that we have had to halt operations in Asia. In the past threats to staff in Taiwan and Thailand led to offices being closed."

Today's lesson is read by the bruiser Ken Harvey, chairman of Norweb. The combative executive is one of the captains of industry who have been persuaded to dispense pearls of wisdom to 18ear-old school-leavers.

Borrowing from Mark Twain, Mr Harvey writes: When I was 18 my parents were so ignorant I could hardly bear to have them around. But when I got to be 25 I was astonished to learn how much they had learned in seven years.'

Yes yes. But what of the hurly-burly of corporate cul-ture? "Be nice to people you pass on the way up," reflects Mr Harvey (whose company is now under the control of North West Water). "You might meet them again on the way down."

Cala shares rocked by warning

lougn trading on the migh street forced two more companies to issue profits warnings yesterday.

Claremont Garments, the textile group that makes lingerie and outerwear for Marks & Spencer, said its pre-tax profits for this year were likely to be the same as last year. The warning follows similarly downbeat announcements yesterday from

Shares in Cala Homes fell from 111p to 87p when it said it would not reach its profits forecast this year. It said the housing market had been weak since the company's year-end in October. Visitor levels and sales reservations had been particularly low in the South-east. Reservations had been better in

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section two

Courtaulds Textiles and Coats Scotland and the Midlands but spring upturn," the company Vivella, the textiles group that the fragility of the market had said. The builder's "best esti-The weak housing market and also owns the Jaeger fashion forced the company to cut mate" of this year's profits is boost sales. Margins had fallen

as a result.

Profits from land sales and property lettings are expected to fall over subsequent years, the company said.

'We do not anticipate any fundamental improvement in the market in the short term but would expect the usual seasonal

year's levels. It expects to maintain the dividend at 3.2p.

Claremont Garments blamed fragile consumer confidence and the warm autumn weather for a difficult environment. These factors damaged sales until mid-November when the weather turned colder. The shares were unchanged at 270p.

IN BRIEF

Zantac wins over-the-counter clearance

Glaxo Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group, has won regulatory approval for its non-prescription version of Zantac, its anti-heartburn treatment. The clearance opens up a new market for Zantac, competing with rival treatments such as Pepcid, produced by Merck, and Tagamet, from SmithKline Beecham.

Glaxo will market the drug in its lower-dosage Zantac 75 form. Zantac, which is the world's biggest-selling prescription medicine and is used in the treatment of ulcers, should be available in the US early next year. It will be sold through Warner Lambert, Glaxo Wellcome's US joint venture. The announcement comes a day after Glazo announced it was selling its half-share in Warner Well come, the group that markets cough and cold cures such as Actifed. Warner Lambert is paying £682m for the share.

Enterprise makes North Sea discovery

Engineering group buys rival for £7.5m

Enterprise Oil has announced a significant oil discovery in the Danish sector of the North Sea. Preliminary estimates indicate that this may be the largest Danish oil find for nearly 20 years.

Thomas Locker, the engineering group, is acquiring a rival met-

als company. Pentre, in a deal worth £7.5m. Pentre is based in Warrington and specialises in the manufacture of drums and reels for the cable industry. In the nine months to September Pentre recorded pre-tax profits of £1.2m on sales of £30m. Thomas Locker has annual sales of £30m and achieved profits of £750,000 in the six months to November. The company said that it needed to ex-pand significantly if it was to safeguard its future prospects.

Astra in research link with US group

Astra, the Swedish drugs group, has signed a research agreement with an American group, Millennium Pharmaceuticals of Massachusetts. The link-up aims to develop a new generation of drugs for the treatment of respiratory diseases such as asthma and bronchitis. The research will be financed by Astra for five years. In addition. Astra will pay certain rights and rovalties based on an-

Electric and General boosts asset value

Electric and General Investment Company has increased its net asset value by 11.3 per cent in the six months to November. The company said interest rate cuts had boosted equity prices, with technology companies leading the way. The trust is paying an interim dividend of 1.7p compared with 1.6p last year.

	COMPANY RESULTS							
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tesiau Estates (F)	0 61m (1 21m)	0.0tm (0.24m)	0.1p (4 5p)	0.75p (-)				
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ades (F)	17 lm (13.8m)	0.38m (0.34m)	1.75p (4 2p)	1p (mil)				
rge Hidgs (I)	4.0m (2.99m)	-0.48m (0.05m)	· (·l	UZ (UJ)				
Series 65 Marie	OR - New months							

Flexibility or credibility – that's the monetary policy question

ast week's cut in base rates turned out to herald pre-Christmas reductions in the cost of borrowing in Europe and the US. But the decision to kick off here revealed exactly what is wrong with British economic policy. It is what has always been wrong with it - the inability to resist the tempta-

tion to meddle. Fine-tuning, as economists prefer to call it, has been the source of most of our past mistakes in economic policy. We are making the same mistakes again - although thanks to Kenneth Clarke's lucky streak. we are making them in a sunnier economic climate of low inflation and reasonable

The result will be the same acklustre performance as in

Politicians in the UK have failed to stick to hands-off policies

the past. Britain will continue to suffer a chronically sinking currency, higher average infla-tion and lower and more variable growth than our main competitors. As the table shows, our relative economic performance is dismal, even including the peak of the most

recent recovery.

British politicians over the decades have failed to stick to hands-off policies even when they proclaimed the importance of doing so. Monetarism was tried and abandoned. Membership of the ERM lasted just less than two years. and ended in ignominy. The rules of engagement the Government brought in to restore the credibility of economic policy after that episode are now

also falling into tatters. The rules are that the Chancellor and Governor of the Bank of England discuss a range of indicators at their meeting every month, the Chancellor reaches a decision about interest rates after the meeting, and the minutes are published six weeks later.

The aim of policy is to keep underlying inflation within a 1-4 per cent range and less than 2.5 per cent on average over a two-year horizon. Three types of indicator of inflation two years hence are



ECONOMICVIEW DIANE COYLE

considered: indicators of financial conditions, the real economy, and costs. The real economy has certainly slowed although most forecasters predict that it will pick up again. Inflation itself remains low, although above target.

Almost all the other indicators are buoyant - especially the monetary ones, the bellwether of policy a decade ago. New figures published yesterday showed bank and building society lending growing by more than 8 per cent year-on-year, while broad money growth popped above the top

of its target range. The evidence on inflation prospects is therefore mixed. Mr Clarke admitted as much by cutting only a quarter point from base rates yesterday. It is not just one or two indicators that are misbehaving, but about half of the list.

It is difficult to imagine that the German Bundesbank would be in a rush to cut interest rates in these circumstances. The trouble is - as two researchers at the Institute for Public Policy Research point out in a recent book* - that the Chancellor bases policy on an estimate of what inflation will be in the future. This lets finetuning in by the back door. Having to use a forecast makes setting interest rates entirely a question of judgement: Mr Clarke's guess about inflation in two years' time is as good as

United States

W.Germany

Economic comparisons 1976-94

average GDP

growth, %

*higher figure means more volatile business cycle

Variability of

GDP growth*

flation target is its "futuristic" interpretation. "The Government could ignore current inflation as irrelevant to its

purposes and, since anyone can forecast what they like, set current policy how it likes." Making monetary policy a matter of judgement - and a politician's judgement at that --brings its problems. Sometimes it does make sense for the Government to react flexibly to changes in the pace of economic growth or in the external environment, when sticking to a policy rule would prevent it. Sometimes flexibility and judgement do lead to a better

outcome for the economy. But generally leaving policy-makers free to exercise their judgement leads to the steady upward drift of inflation, as at any time there seems no harm in a small increase in inflation from where it is now. There is a trade-off between the flexibility to adjust policy and the general anti-inflationary credfility of policy.

What's more, the stronger the anti-inflationary credibility of the authorities, the more effectively they will be able to intervene on growth when the

The two IPPR authors wrongly dismiss the impor-tance of credibility as a practi-cal matter, arguing that inflation has more to do with world trends than individual countries' policies. They overlook anybody's. the penalties that financial markets impose on countries Holtham and Dan Corry, put it, the problem with the current in-

rate %

3.2

It is also clear that Britain starts from a low-credibility base. The markets put sterling assets in the same risk league as those of Italy and Spain. Beefing up our anti-inflationary credibility would help pre-

exchange rate or a sharp rise in

the government's borrowing

costs - neither at all trivial.

vent further falls in the exchange rate and cut the amount of interest the Government has to pay on its debt. There is by now pretty compelling evidence that countries which give up governmental icy, through an effectively inde-pendent central bank with low inflation its top priority, do indeed get low inflation. This

The arguments against tinkering with rates are overwhelming (

bookt by a Bank of England

economist, Eric Schaling, who also finds that independent central banks do not cause recessions.

There is no evidence that central bank independence, by limiting the policy reaction to the strength or weakness of the economy, makes for a more violent business cycle. He writes: "The establishment of central bank independence is a

A Bank of England man would say that. Even so, the arguments for leaving well alone rather than tinkering with interest rates are overwhelming. The best the Chancellor can do is get them about right and then leave them.

Apart from anything else, half-point changes in base rates have virtually no effect on the economy's rate of growth. It takes a change of three or more percentage points to have any noticeable impact. Mr Clarke is not so confident in his judgement that we have won victory over inflation to have given us 3.5 per cent base rates as a Christmas present,

Growth with Stability, Dan Corry and Gerald Holsham, IPPR.

† Institutions and Monetary Policy, Eric Schaling, Edward Elgar.

هكذا من الأصل

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SEAQ VOLUME

3,613.7 + 36.8

FT-SE 100

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教育者 エスカー Brain name .

38 (20) 48 Aug 14

観点語が変

market report/shares

long, hot summer.

changed at 32.5p.

attracting takeover specula-

tion. The shares came to mar-ket at 1125p in March last

Crown Products, the games

group, returned to AIM after

two acquisitions, at 57p, up

SHARE PRICE DATA

from a 45p suspension.

Renewed US cheer sweeps away the Christmas blues

American investors came to the rescue of the stock market, sweeping away the uncharacteristic Christmas-week blues. New York's sudden strength, following the interest rate cut,

second day running, was British Gas, out of the cold with the shares closing at 250p, up 10.5p, after 253.5p.

Takeover rumours persisted with British Petroleum and Shell still whispered as the likely predators.

The recent cold spell, the in-creasing price of gas in the US and the appointment of merchant banker Kenneth Gar-

British Gas was easily the busiest traded share of the day with Seaq putting volume at 33.8 million.

counter sales of Zantac. The rapidly growing American stomach remedies market,

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

of the year

Celltech edged ahead 3p to 579p with avid follower Dr Er-ling Refsum of Yamaichi suggesting an underlying value of 840p and a target of 750p for

Anagen jumped 19p to 76p as the FDA cleared an assay to measure testosterone.

Smith & Nephew was back in the takeover frame as Johnson & Johnson, the US giant often linked with the healthcare group, was reported to have said at a New York presentation that it was looking ag-

progressed a further 22p to 315p, a peak. The shares were 197p in May. UBS rates them a buy and has lifted forecasts. Tesco gave up 5.5p to 285.5p as ABN Amro Hoare Govett

was said to be responsible for a big switch into rivals Asda, up 4.75p to 109.25p.
Cadbury Schweppes was lowered 6p to 524p as NatWest Securities cut next year's forecast from £642m to £622m.

year's estimate from £571m to Royal Bank of Scotland. last week's hot speculative stock, fell 4p to 664p as those banking on a bid were jolted

LEISURE & HOTELS

Kleinwort Benson reduced this

Younger of Prestwick, chair- Carnival Corporation, the US man, sold 40,000 shares at

565p.
SBC Warburg suggested a switch out of Barclays, off 9p at 742p, into National Westminster Bank, up 3p at 652p. Hanson, planning to raise £1.5bn through US sales, gained 4.5p to 189p and Inchcape, aiming to float its Bain

Hogg insurance broking division, rose 4p to 234p. Vodafone was the best-performing blue chip. It was helped on Tuesday by directorbuying and gained a further 12.5p to 223.5p with Lehman Brothers offering support. Reckitt & Colman gained 9p

to 697p following a Barclays de Zoete Wedd visit.

Airtours, the packaged holiday group, rose 8p to 375p. The shares have climbed from 309p this month, largely on relief over the group's profit

performance.

cruise line, is said to be look-ing closely. It could be interested in capturing the UK's second-largest holiday busi-

ness or may merely have its sights on its growing cruise side. The day's two profit warnings left housebuilder Cala 24p lower at 87p, but Claremont Garments was unchanged at 270p. The company is an obvious casualty of the

Bardon, the aggregates group, was again busily traded, with volume put at almost 6.9 million; the price was little Groupe Chéz Gerard, up 9p at 217p, is riding at a peak and

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891–123–333. For assistance, call our helpline 071-873-4375 (9.30am - 5.20pm).

Calls cost 39p per minute (cheap rate), and 49p at all other times. Call charges include VAT

MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

is taking over the D&S snack business for nearly £10m, gained 9p to 81p. There is talk house stockbroker, Henderson Crosthwaite, is preparing a bullish circular. interim results are due next month. Last year Continental produced £1.1m and the cur-

was enough to boost the FT-SE 100 index 36.8 points to 3,613.7 and rekindle hopes of another 894m shares 27,440 bargains National Power, reflecting its worth more than \$1.1bn a round of traditional festive Gilts Index 57 million-share buy-back. gained 18p to 447p and General Electric Co, up 11.5p at 328.5p, was helped by talk of 96.65 ,+ 0.12 Many of the old takeover favourites were back in demand with insurers particularly SHARE SPOTLIGHT a Hong Kong contract. strong: General Accident led Oils were strong with British Petroleum up 10p at 529p. Enterprise Oil, 11p higher at 389p, was encouraged by a Danish oil strike. the pack, up 28p at 651p. the end of next year. And, intriguing many for the Stagecoach

Drugs were mostly firmer with Glazo Wellcome, up 8p at 886p, helped by approval from the US Food and Drug Ad-ministration for over-the-

gressively for acquisitions. where SmithKline Beecham is Stagecoach, following its already a player, is said to be British Rail franchise success,

> Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/carnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details; or Ex rights a Ex-dividend a Ex-all a Unitited Securities Market a Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. Source: Finata. THE INDEPENDENT INDEX The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial 0891-123-335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891-1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below. FT-SE 100 - Real-time 00 Sterling Rates 04 Privatisation Issues 36 UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 95 Water Shares 39 UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40 Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41

| March | Marc

Stanford Rook, a high-fly-ing AIM share that started life on the defunct 4.2 market, climbed 37p to 225p as it announced plans to place 875,000 shares at 200p. The company is developing a TB vaccine. Like most fledgling drug shares Stanford has yet to get near to making profits; it lost £273,000 in the six months to June. Since arriving on AIM in July the shares have been as low as 100p. Continental Foods, the children's snack food group which in a complicated deal

rent forecast for this year is

9,000 Brash Sarel 9,100 Sears 8,600 Classo Wellcome 8,600 Rolls Royce

14.00 3612.7 up 35.8

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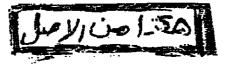
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The breakneck progress of

Alex King, the student stand-off

who has emerged from the

comparative obscurity of Bris-

tol University to play for the

South-West and England A,

will continue with his debut for

the Barbarians in their festive

match against Leicester next

Wednesday. King is joined by an exotic concection made up of a

South African, a Canadían, a

Samoan and two Frenchmen as

well as five Weishmen, three

Scots and his England A half-

back partner, Andy Gomarsall.

nounced the establishment of

their own sports scholarships at

the University of Surrey in Guild-

ford to enable students - prob-

ably about five initially - to

remain in higher education an ex-

tra year and so allow time to pre-

pare for and compete in rugby.

Each scholarship is worth £8,000 and, as the club and university

stress, is dependent on the re-

cipient being able to satisfy aca-

demic as well as sporting criteria.

Harleonins vesterday au-

Moseley on 2 December.

GREG WOOD

a Exchange Rain

RAIS

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建筑建筑 经公司

Until the latest weather system deposited an inch and a half of rain on Kempton Park the night before last, the one decent bet for the King George VI Chase was that The Fellow's race record time of 5min 46.4sec, set in 1991, would be in considerable danger. Twelve entries now remain in Boxing Day's fea-ture event, of which no fewer than seven either need, or like, to force the pace. Even the Bond movie is unlikely to be as

fast or furious. The thought of perhaps halfa-dozen front-runners, including such leading fancies as Barton Bank, Merry Gale, One Man and Dublin Flyer, egging ed on Tuesday by both Algan each other on from the start is and Val D'Alene, winner of the

Racing has lost one of its last

three pre-Christmas meetings as

today's card at Kelso has been

abandoned because of frost. But

hopes are high that Lingfield

and Uttoxeter will survive to

provide punters with a final

chance to bet before a three-day

LINGFIELD

break in the fixture-list.

12.30 Mystic Isle

1.00 Swivel 1.30 Balasani (nb)

2.00 Twice A Night

Frost nips Kelso

HYPERION

GOING: Heavy.

Left-hand, sharp undulating course, Bun-in of 200yds.

Course c-SE of town on B2023 Language station adjours course ADMISSION: Members 512, Taitersalls 58: Silver Ring 54, CAR PARK: Club Sil; remainder free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: Mise B Sanders — 21 winners from 65 run-fers gives a success ratio of 32.3% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$1 let, \$ Dow — 16 winners. —1 runners, 29.6%, -\$7.77, B. Alceburst.—15 winners, 40 runners, 37.6%, +\$22, 18;

E UEADING JOCKETS: A Dicken — 21 winners, 59 rides, 35.6%, +28.56; A Magnire — 20 winners, 91 rides, 21.3%, -528.84; D O'Sullivan — 13 winners, 55 rides, 15.3%, -527.04; B Dunwoody — 12 winners, 41 rides, 29.3%, +50.77.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Piecre (3.00) won at Southwell on Thursday, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS; Balassati (1.30), Preenin Girl (2.00), Most Equal (2.30), Charlie Parrot (3.30) & Strong Tel (3.30) have been sent [69 miles by M Pipe from Nandastante, Denon.

12.30 EBF "NH" NOVICE HURDLE (QUALLETER) (CLASS E) £2.800

added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,520

BETTING: 7-4 Mone Stirred, 4-1, Pete The Passon, 9-2 Mystic Inle, 8-1 Bintant Outberst, Mile

NONE STURRED wit take all the bearing if he handles this very testing ground. Josh Gafterd's five-pear-old made his debut at Sendom this month and shaped with plenty of promise in finishing 16 tengths thad to Call Equiname, keeping on in the straight under a gertle ride. The Sandown winner and runner-up. Crack On, have both won since to give the form a boost and None Stimed shapeer as though stamfars a a string suit. Mystle late is notifier and stays well judged on his hundling debut with Richard Durwoody name. Pear the Parison, that of 21 to Dancing Sam as Worcester in March, could firsh only in mid-fact berind Cool Runner on his return at the same course but will have benefited from the run. Bitatact Outburst's Southwell bumper within June was on firm ground and the run first conditions very different today, while Oktail Wood disappointed at the same course last week in Walling Yalf's race.

1.00 PLUM PLODING RIVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,856

2 DARTIER (20) (A D Spence: R Avehurs 10 12
2: GOLDWIN (USA) (LA) Horses For Courses Roong Club) Bab Jones 10 12
MASON: SF [Troot] S Mebbr 10 12
3: NESSUM DORO (S) Paul Portes & Partners S Mellor 10 12
3: NEPPHEROS REST (The Doo Dozen S Mellor 10 12
3: NEPHEROS REST (The Doo Dozen S Mellor 10 12
3: URBED FRONT (40) I Flesh Heyes 10 12
3: URBED FRONT (40) I Bereston R O'Sulfison 10 12
3: AL COPRICTE (23) (O Bass) K Commiglian-Brown 10 7
3: RECOURT MEM (38) (Ast D AL Probe R Buckler 10 7
4: PROSTORM LEMI (38) (Ast D AL Probe R Buckler 10 7
4: ANS THE BEAT Son Medio S Mellor 10 7
4: ROSS THE BEAT Son Medio S Mellor 10 7
4: ROSS THE BEAT Son Medio S Mellor 10 7
4: ROSS THE BEAT Son Medio S Mellor 10 7
4: Charles S Medio S M

SETTING: 7-4 Carter, 4-1 Kilcoren Bay, 6-1 Last Spin, 8-1 Servel, 12-1 China Mail, 14-1 United Prost,

PORM GUIDE

DARTER, who shaked ability in four runs for Luca Cumani on the Flat, made a pleasing start to inits harding career with Reg Alvehurst when runner-up to Alliume Dencer at Schooler, peaten as lengths. His hurding can behannly be improved, but he will know write now and his bedgees suggests that the testing ground will not pose a problem. Last

....A P McCor

SCI2 KILCORAN BAY (27) (3) Brigel Herris | Badding 11 4
552 LIST SPAN (14) (3) Takes Date Long | Jenture 10 13
ARDLEIGH PRENCE (2 | Pennat. 6 | Moore 10 12
BON WOYAGE (18) (4) EN HAS I Vesterol 10 Grasel 10 12
BOWLES PATEOL Airs Dene (spoon) Uppon 10 12
CHELMORTH WOLF IN A Gless | Speering 10 12
CHELMORTH WOLF IN A Gless | Speering 10 12
CHELMORTH WOLF IN A Gless | Speering 10 12
CHELMORTH WOLF IN A Gless | Speering 10 12
DARTIER (20) (4 D Speeric IR Alecture 10 12
DARTIER (20) (4 D Speeric IR Alecture 10 12
CHELMORTH AND ALECTURE OF COURSE Service (24th) Box (20)

(0-0 CRAZY WERTHER (29) (# Braze) Mrs P Sty 5 11 0 ...

-0-5 KCY PLAYER (28) (W Paddram R Rose 6 11 0 ...

-1-6 MITTENWAND (8) (James Bustey) K Batey 6 11 0 ...

-2-6 MISTER (SEE (19) (RE) (Was P Furse) N Goodee 5 11 0 ...

-3 MONE STRINGED (20) (Color Framery (Afford 5 11 0 ...

-2-4C(20 CRASEL) WOOD (7) (Padd Shiker) S Melor 5 11 0 ...

-2-3-3-0 PETE THE PRISSON (24) (RF) (W E Surd J 00 6 11 0 ...

-2-3-3-0 PETE THE PRISSON (24) (RF) (W E Surd J 00 6 11 0 ...

-2-3-3-0 COMEDY MOUR (24) AC C Pode (P Murphy 4 10 9 ...

-0-0090 PLEMINGS DELIGHT (223) (Mrs Glora Lessop) A Jessey 5 10 9 ...

-1-7-1 declared ...

1994: 5-75:4 4 11 0 R D regody 11-4 (R Alexuss) 16 mm FORM GUIDE

winters. 1-1 rathers. 25,6%, -\$7,77; K Akendrst. — 10 winters. R O'Sullivan — 13 winners, 62 rainers. 21,5%, -\$13,54.

ters. A shortage of pace will often throw up strange results, but too much can be just as dangerous, as any backer of eight years' standing will recall. The longest-priced winner in the King George's 48-year history, Nupsula at 25-1 in 1987, picked up the pieces after Desert Orchid and Beau Ranger set off like whippets, only to capitulate tamely when it really mattered.

Nupsala, of course, announced the arrival of François Doumen as a serious player in Britain's big jumps races. The Frenchman's record now includes three more wins in the King George (thanks to The Fellow in 1991 and 1992 and Algan 12 months ago), not forgetting The Fellow's Gold Cup in 1994. He will be representnot one to comfort many pun-Racing Post Chase over the

A total of seven full meetings

Al Uttoxeter the clerk of

have now been lost to the

weather during the current

the course, David McAllister,

was "cautiously optimistic" that

today's meeting will go ahead despite a bleak forecast.

jumps season.

2.30 Most Equal 3.00 River Leven

3.30 Master Hopefull

King George course and dis-tance last February.

By now, you might think, British punters would have learned that they discount Doumen at their peril, yet both of his runners are available at 16-1. Algan. it is true, was a very for-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Going Around (Uttoxeter 2.10) NB: Betty's Boy (Lingfield 1.30)

tunate winner 12 months ago, when Barton Bank departed at the final fence, but the 16-1 about Val D'Alene is probably the last crumb of value in what is generally a very tight market. Monsieur Le Cure, incidentally, was yesterday declared to be a runner only if the ground is good or softer. Last year's King the last seven years.

Alf Rubin, Cayton of the Mom-

ing Star, and one of the most re-

spected and long-serving racing

ournalists, has died at the age

Sketch and Reynolds News.

Rubin, who began with the

George runner-up will otherwise contest the Rowland Meyrick Chase at Wetherby.

The second big race of the holidays, the Welsh National at Chepstow on Wednesday, will have a maximum of 20 runners following yesterday's declarations. Master Oats, whose victory in the race last year was the first major hint of the glory awaiting him at Cheltenham three months later, is not among them, however.

Instead, the Gold Cup winner will wait for the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown the next day, leaving Minnehoma, the 1994 Grand National winner, to head the weights. Miinnehoma is one of three entries from Martin Pipe, whose record in the race is better even than Doumen's at Kempton. Pipe has saddled the winner five times in

Famous for his long-priced

winning naps, he brought off a

notable success when tipping

the 66-1 1949 Grand National

winner, Russian Hero. He won

the Sporting Life naps' table four

Rubin dies aged 79

Daily Worker 60 years ago, also times and his final nap in yeshad brief stints with the Daily terday's paper, Nicklup, was a

Spin has progressed nicley over hundles, winning at Fakenham last time (Goldwyn fourth), but a bigger threat should be follown Bay. a Windsor winner last month. He was not disgraced in firshing third to smart Our lins in a big field at Newbury last time and did win on the good to soft at Sandown on the Flat. Swivel, a decent staying maiden for James Fanshawe, has his first run over hundles for David Nicholson and can pose a big threat if handling the ground, while Richard Duriwoody is on Kim Bailey's China Mail, although the Stp Anchor gelding showed only limited stairly on the Flat. All Comitche at least showed that he handles testing ground when runner-up to Much Too High at Fortivell and has each-way prospects. United Front, fourth to Court Nap on his hundling debut at Windsor, should have benefited from the run.

1.30 LOWNDES LAMBERT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 3m Penalty Value £6,902

| 113P-1 | BETTYS BOY (43) (7 Berfeld and Mr W Brown) N Bakey 6 11 7 | R Diamondy 2 0001-29 SELVERFOR IAD (21) (86) JA TA MIRASH T Casey 6 11 4 | J Optome 3 0/P54-PP ALFION (21) (Af Charleck) C Weedon 6 11 0 | Peter Hobbs 4 005/U BABBURRY PERIOCE (6) (** Coviey) Mrs J Renfree Barror 9 11 0 | R Greene 5 204-11 | BALASAN (FR) (64 M D S refit M Pep 9 11 0 | D Bridgester 6 002 LETS RIMBELE (21) 61 V Perny R Airer 6 11 0 | A P McCover 6 003 LETS RIMBELE (21) 61 V Perny R Airer 6 11 0 | A P McCover 6 243442* THE WEST'S ASLEEP (83.2) (Roger J Spencer) J First-Heyes 10 11 0 | B Festion - 8 declared - BETTING: 5-4 Bertty's Boy, 3-1 St Medion February, 7-2 Balassans, 8-1 Lists Rimable, Silverfort Lad, 25-1 The West's Asleep, 33-1 others

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE
BETTY'S BOY showed when a close third in Chehenham's Gold Card Handicap Hurdle last.

BETTY'S BOY snowed when a close trurd in Chebenham's Gold Card Handicap Hurdle last season that he handles testing ground and he is taken to defy a penany. Firm Badey's lagidy-raced sev-pear-old jumped really well on his chasing debut when gamely bearing Cheymut in a valuable event at Woncester last month and has a linght future over recres. Betty's Boy will certainly get a good test today and, if Balassani takes to the larger obstacles. Martin Pipe's number will be difficult to bear. This is his first non over jumps since being awarded the 1994 Stayers' Hurdle at Chebrerham on the desqualification of Airo Arson, however, and it remains to be seen how one so expensioned over hurdles tares making the trenston to chasing. St Medition Fairway, winner of the Persain War Hurdle at Chepstow last season, will be in his element on this ground over a staying trip and can prove a big danger on his chasing debut. Lets Rumble, who ran See More Business to five lengths in a point-to-point last season, did really well on his debut over registration lences when second to Ubu Val in a well-contested race at Windsor - trudpiaced Church Lave has won since - and will win races when dropped in class.

Selection: BETTY'S BOY

2.00 HBLB MARES CHRISTMAS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,750 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £3,464

FORM GUIDE

SOPHE MAY appeals with just 10st 11b to carry. Gary Moore's filly goes really well on resting ground – she won a juvenile hundle under similar conditions at Folkastono last season when with Mark Duon – and she showed her well-being when numer-up to Zajira at Windsor recently. Sophie May was done for foot then over two meks on the good in soft then and she promises to be well suited by this greater test of stamina. Twice A highly is a clear danger having run Plunder Bay to a head at Lecester last time. She is only 21b higher and appeared to handle the softish ground well Preentike Girl is 61b out of the handleap even with a penalty for her Folkestone win from Envopshiesda last week. She handled the return to hardles well but has more on her plate now. White her first win in this country came on the heavy, she was seen to good effect over fences on fast ground earlier in the season. Maintenar's Air, who ran up a four-time fast season, will find this going more to her liking than the good ground see encountered on her return at Chettenham in Cheryl's Lad's race, but she has plently of weight now and there was lattle encounagement in that reappearance run. Laddish hes twice disappointed since winning at Newton Abbot last month, but she stays well and acts on the ground, so cannot be demissed. Sendal is likely to struggle on her reappearance under 12st.

2.30 BRANDY BUTTER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £2,800 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,262

But it may not be six out of eight, though, since the 10-1 of-fered against Miinnehoma by Coral, the sponsors, is the shortest price of any of Pipe's trio this year. The favourite is Earth Summit, a former Scottish National winner, at 7-2. The firm then bet: 9-2 Flyer's Nap. 11-2 Suny Bay, 13-2 Superior Finish, 8-1 Grange Brake and Tantan Tyrant, 10-1 bar.

The Christmas Hurdle at Kempton the same day is likely to see the return to hurdling of Montelado, one of the favourites for the Champion Hurdle but unraced over timber since the 1995 championship. Pat Flynn's Irish challenger will face six rivals at most, with Atours and Absalom's Lady, both trained by David Elsworth. his most credible rivals.

The weights were also released yesterday for one of the of the pile.

The trainer Jonjo O'Neili was

fined £400 and his jockey, Alan

lic at Hexham yesterday.



first big events of the new year, the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot, offering yet more evi-dence that Viking Flagship's reign as the best two-miler in training may be nearing its end. Sound Man, who beat Viking Flaghip comprehensively in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown, is now rated just 3lb below David Nicholson's runner. Success at Ascot on 13 January would surely take him to the top

O'Neill fined £400

Roche, suspended for seven drop the mare out in the early stages to ensure she got the trip. O'Neill said he was satsified days for schooling and conditioning Princess Maxine in pub-The mare had appeared to be would have preferred him to

with Roche's riding, although he tenderly handled when staying have had the horse in a more on to finish fifth in the novices prominent position.

AStraum sergic 10st. The hardstap weight: Neverold Sci 10th. The Scize Sci 10th BETTING: 9-4 Most Equal, 3-1 Nordensk, 6-1 Northere Village, 8-1 Ajder, El Volador, 10-1 Aulias-darkinación, 13-1 others 1994: Namasto 6-11-10 Chris Webb 5-4 (R Noad: 5 ran FORM GUIDE MOST EQUAL is unproven on ground as Lesting as this, but Marun Pipe's consistent five-vear cital bandled the good in soft count at Lesting as the county last time, scoring by four

MOST EQUAL is unproven on ground as testing as this, but Marun Pipe's consistent fiveyear-old handled the good to soft going at Lecesier well enough last time, scoring by four
lengths from Salisong, and is worth a chance. Most Equal would have won by further had
he not blundered at the task, so he looks well nandcapped on just a 4-lb lighter mark,
parcularly with the form working our well – the runner-up, third and lifth have all won
since. Neveroid was hearth, backed 17-2 from 14-t1 before finishing runner-up to
Hawrhome Glen on the soft at Towcester last week. He is 4lb out of the handicap, but has only a light weight and won a maden number on heavy ground at timenck last season.
Nordansk will handle the ground but has more than his share of weight. Tickerty's Gift,
and Neltegrity are proven on lesting ground but have no recent form to recommend
them, while conditions are against Ajdar, El Volador, Elburg and Northern Village.

Selection: MOST EQUAL

3.00 PORT & STILTON NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £5,000 added 2m Penalty Value £3,496

Menimum reight 10:1. The handicap weight Prepos Worder St 7b.

BETTING: 2-1 Riene, 3-1 River Leven, 9-2 Major's Law, 5-1 Aedean, 6-1 Stage Player, 10-1 Immry
The Jackdow, 16-1 others

1994: no carresporating race

FORM GUIDE

Danid Gendollo has snapped up Richard Durwoody for RIVER LEVEN after the gelding's mishap under the stable's conditional. Dens Leahy, at Hereford last week. River Leven was in with every chance of bearing Dawn Chance, only to unseat his partner at the second last, and compensation awards in this similar type of race. That was River Leven's first taste of fences after two creditable hundle efforts and the mappe of Durwoody should get him home in a novice that fooks up for grabs, Major's Law jumps fences for the unstance and the landed some good bets in a selling hundle at Southwell on his first ruit last season, so lack of recent action may not handicap him, However, the 12st sets him a task, especially with fiver Leven receiving 11th. Fleece also looks beatable under the same burden. Only a patter nowadays over hundles, Fleece made a vinitable under the

same burden. Only a plater nowadays over hurdles, Fierce made a winning chasing debut at Southwell is week ago, but in was a weak race and the will be tougher for him with the 6b penalty. Aedean should play a prominent pan after contesting some hot races over longer mps. He ran from the from at Leicester last time when finally beaten 1.1 lengths

into fourth by Chailenger Du Luc and this grade affords him a much better opening. Policemans Pride does not took good enough despite a fair showing against Candle lung and the untucky No Pain No Gain at Fortively, while Paddy Butler's pair Jiammy The Jackdaw (first run of season and righty med last term) and Precious Wonder may also

3.30 HOLLY & IVY MAIDEN OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

PERRERS UL Burt Nrs P Sty 4 11 4
PLYING FIDDLER (Mile Roberts) M Roberts = 11 4
PLYING GUNRIER (43) (R Mayers Green D Nicholson 4 11 4

The numer to take the eye is MASTER HOPEFULL a son of Lantranco out of the New Zealand-bred mare Eyelure and from a stable always to be respected in these races. Martin Pipe runs two and there is a chance his Strong Gale newcomer Strong Tell Jonothan Lower) will do better than Charitle Parrot i David Bindjwateri, who tooks beatable on his debut fourth to Kingristinge Scot at Wincanton. Nigel Twiston-Davies is also doubly represented, Mister Morose can be given a fine chance after his debut neck second to Riverdale Boy at Bangor, though the stable's newcomer, Mankholl (Carl Llewellyn), a son of Rakaposhi King, could easily be one the surprise packets in the field. David Nicholson's Sutheritand Moss has been rested for seven weeks after a debut run behind his stablemats Castle Sweep at Newton Abood. Arthough only severith, some promise has shown and the son of Antross can improve for the experience Millies Princess and Risingris Lass have packy pedigres, but he ex-firsh points performer Phar Prom Furnry needs to improve on his sight to Boss's Bank at Towcester.

Selection: MASTER HOPEFULL.

Norman weight 10st. The hendican veryell, Charoscum 9st 3th. BETTING: 2-1 Thomton Gate, 4-1 Effaa, 5-1 Televin. 5-1 Teen Jay. Tejano Gold, 8-1 Saint Citi, Survez, 25-1 others

3.10 ST MODWEN CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m

3.40 ALAN POVEY SIGNS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m

(CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,371

B FIFTY TWO (Mr. Came Zetter-Weis) L Weis - 11 4 Peter Hobbs CHARLEE PARROT (47) (Ms. Alson C Farrare) M Poe 5 11 4 D Bridgeater EQUESTRIANISM (16) (Left Peanse - 11 4 D Bridgeater

find this a shade too hot. Selection: RIVER LEVEN

1 added 27n Penarty Value 2.5,450

121-53 MAJOR'S LAW (229) B G Roong J Whee 6 12 0

10-6431 FERCE (7) (0) P W Piper J Jeniens 7 12 0 (6ed)

272-554 STABE PLAYER (290) MSS CJ E Carel Mss C Carel 9 11 13

15-3674 AEDEAN (15) M B Oren-Pamer G Emgin 6 11 5

400-1211 RWEN LEVEN (6) IR E Brikkerth D Gandolfo 6 11 3

3067-3 POLICIAMNS PRIDE (78) (39) (7 R Dover of Margingto 6 10 11

6-45-45 BRANT THE JACKDAN (386) IP Butter P Butter 8 10
PP-365 PRECIOUS WONDER (9) (0) Butter P Butter 6 10 0

poor start to the Scot's career in England. He joined Bath as long ago as the beginning of last hundle. Roche told the stewards season but spent all of it rethat his instructions had been to covering from a knee injury and throughout the first half of this season he has struggled to withstand Sanders. There is no place either for Audley Lumsden and Adedayo Adebayo, who have filled the wing positions for most of the

Rugby Union

Recreation Ground.

the same record.

Andy Nicol, Bath's Scotland

scrum-half, was last night

dropped from the side to open

the detence of the Pilkington

Cup in Saturday's fourth-round

tic against Northampton at the

The Bath choice was com-

municated from Portugal on the

final full day of a training camp

intended to relaunch the team

after a seven-week break from

league rugby. Bath lead the First

Division with 10 wins from 10.

Northampton the Second with

Nicol's exclusion, in favour of

the Cornishman Ian Sanders.

compounds a disconcertingly

STEVE BALE

season but are displaced by Simon Geoghegan of Ireland and Jon Sleightholme of England A. Even without Nicol, however, Bath field 12 internationals. Bristol, away to Reading, are relieved to have been able to select the England hooker, Mark

OCTITIC AS WELL TO SPOTTING CTRETTAL
BARBARIANS by Leicester, Wednesday, 27
December: J Thomas (Lanell); D Lougheed
(Toronto Welsh), L Davies (Realin), G Shiel
(Motrose), W Proctor (Usnells); A King (Enstol Universit), A Gomansali (Waspa); M Milka
(Dap) (Tiversity), J Hay (Hawst), D Lapeme,
P Berck (Dan) G Prosser (Pomyondo), A
Gibr's (Euronoge), R Straeuli (Transvaal), J
Mechison (Lendon Scottish).

The All Black Jonah Lomu has been voted player of the year by the Rugby Writers Club.

Henman set to end year on a high

Regan, who was exonerated by

the Gloucestershire discipli-

Tennis

Henman saw his world madeing rise this week from -60%in the final list to be issued before the New Year - even though he did not hit a single ball in competition. World rankings are based on a play it is best 14 tournaments in a 12-month | The package, which repreperiod, and three men ranked

above him lost points last week. When 1995 began Henman. 21, was suffering from a broken ankle and was ranked at 167. He will also become the British No 1 when the 1995 home rankings are announced next month, even though the Canadian-born Greg Rusedski is far higher in the world rankings at No 37. Domestic rankings are only given to players who have been eligible to play for Britain during the past 12 months.

Counties win grand prix sponsorship

Oxford's Tim Henman will end 1995 with a double bonus; bishighest world ranking and the knowledge that next month he will be named as Britain's No 1.

Equestrianism

The county show jumping circuit will be given a timely boost next .car. with the introduction of a Grand Prix series sponsored by Daewoo, the South Korean car firm, writes Genevieve Murphy. It will start in May when the Royal Windsor Horse Show hosts the first of 12 qualifying

contests, with the Grand Prix Championship final taking place at the Royal Show in July 1997. sents Daewoo's first sponsorship deal, will cost the firm around £160.000 – which includes prizemoney of £4,500 for each qualifier and £15,000 for the final. The sum will also pay for

trade stand space at each venue. The series was given a warm welcome by David Broome. "In the past we always did our learning at the county shows." he said. "This will really lift our sport next year, helping us to produce horses for success at international level."

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Swatch



UTTOXETER

GOING: meet to Farm Good in places).

SIS RAZING

HYPERION

12.40 High Learie 1.10 Elusive Star 1.40 Dantes Sun 2.10 GOING AROUND (nap) 2.40 Thornton

Believe of course Europe of 170yd.

Electer of course Europe of 170yd.

George of SC of order of SC 017. Unoverer station (Derty-Greece and Course of SC of order of SC 017. Unoverer station (Derty-Greece and Course of SC 017. Co

DINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Tanseeq (J.40) won at

CONGRESSIANCE RUNNERS: Steel Mass (12.40) has been sens that Dales ago: S. Farma's from Scootlergle, Devon.

Gate 3.10 Barna Boy 3.40 Bietschhorn Bard

12.30: 1. DURE OF PERTH IP Carberry 100-30 fm; 2. Lord Rullah 10-1; 3. Sayraf Donoer 9-1 12 ran. 5, 2, UH Johnson, Totas (2.30: £1.30, £1.30, Df; £23.50, CSF; £37.79, Tro: £96.50, NR Lornan Com-modore, Sunderland Ecro. 1.00: 1. CHOWNELL CURRAINS (L. Wyer)

1.00: 1 CHOPWELL CURTAINS (I. Wee) 2.11 far; 2. Peep 0 Day 10: 1: 3. Cherry Stone 20: 1. 17 ran, 2::.. 13. (M H Eastersh), Totes 21: 90: 51: 90: 52: 00: 66: 00: 67: 90. CSF, 27: 30: 10: 127: 10. NR: Roid Account, Car-30: 1. BEAUCHAINP GRACE, Mr N. Who-130: 1. BEAUCHAINP GRACE, Mr N. Who-121: 1: 2. Chief Raider 7: 1: 3. Solba 9. (27) 8-1: 2. Chief Rolder 7-1; 3. Soiba 9-

2½, nk. iMrs. S. Bramall). **Tote:** £10.50; £2.90, £2.90, £1.50. DF: £30.60. CSF; £64.35. Tro: £173.00. NR; Choisty, Commandeer, Dealty.
2.00: 1. NEW CHARGES (B Gratian) 5-1:

2 TRAIL BOSS (200) Mes H Kreftx 4 11 0 _______ J F Thiley O VEEAAR (17) A Berros 4 11 0 ______ S Burrose(h 4 WHO AM | (14) R AH F 5 11 0 ______ R Johnson (3) O-P LADY MIGH SHEERIFF (24) T Forster 5 10 9 ______ T Jenics

- 15 declared -BETTING: 4-1 High Learie, 5-1 Ah There You Are, 6-1 Mountain Path, Three Philosophers, 7-1 Trail Goss, 8-1 Harry Boy, 10-1 Who Are I, 12-1 others

1.10 BURTON ALBION FC MARES NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 2m

1.40 JAYMANS ESTATE AGENCY NOVICE HAND-ICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 3m 2f

2.00: 1. NEW CHARGES (8 Gratian) 5-1: 2. Kittochekide Lad 10-1; 3. Sand Ring 20-1; 3. ran, 7-2 lav Dashmar (60h., 4, 3. P. Beaumond, Totte: 16-30: £1.40, £3.20. £4.20, DF: £36.60, LSF: £58.31. Intest: £894.64, Into: £154.80. NR: Carole Boy, Galorane. 2. 30: 1. EASBY JOMER (P. Naven) 11-10 fact; 2. Lupy Minester 10-1: 3. Taker Fellow 9-2: 8 ran. 3, 5, (S. Kettlewell), Totte: £2.10: £1.50, £1.20, £2.10. OF: £82.00. SF: £13.11. Takest: £37.83. Trio: £47.60. NR: Golden Fiddle, Insh Gent, Jendee, Marchwood, Nimfa.

3.00: 1. RACHAEL'S OWEN (I. Wyer 5-4 far; 2. Eriny 7-2: 3. Scarba 5-2: 5 ran. 1. 1. (T. Dyer). Total: £1.70: £1.10, £2.10. DF: £2.40. CSF: £5.60. NRS: Another Fountain, Innocent George.
2.30: 1. RWEN MITH (F Perrat) 20-1. 2. Uk Hyglene 12-1: 3. Tullymainy Toff 7-4 lav. 13 ran. 6, sha-hd. (I. Lungo). Total: £28.20: £10.30, £5.70, £1.60. DF: £91.40. CSF: £224.99. June £10.90. NR: Contieu.

- 9 deciared -BETTING: 7-4 Rex To The Rescue, 5-2 Jackson Flint, 9-2 Poppes, 6-1 Ber-ton Santa, 8-1 Going Around, Over The Cornib, 33-1 others.

LUDI.OW 12.45; 1. KREEF (6 Crone) 10-1; 2. Barryten 5-2 fav; 3. Dragorimist 16-1; 4. Damcade 10-1, 18 ran. Nr. 15. (R Curts, Epson).

9 **1389** 17 18

Toto: £8.80; £1.60, £1.70, £1.10, £3.90
DF: £12.70. CSF: £31.87. Tracest: £366.99.
Inc: £83.30.
2.1.52 1. NECKLUP (A Thornton) 3-1; 2. Alice Senith 7-2; 3. Victory Austhem 10-1, 7 ran. 13-8 faw Mulual Trust (unscented nder).
Ni, 5. of Forster, Warnage). Tote: £2.80; £1.30, £1.90. DF: £10.80. CSF: £13.69. Tracest: £84.47. NR: Coesting.
1.48: 1. CARLIN GLAS (D Firnegan) 9-2; 2. Goldenswiff 7-4 fax; 3. Koo's Promise 14-1 13 ran. 2.25; in Chance, Lambourni.
Tote: £7.20; £2.20, £1.50, £3.00. DF. £7.00. CSF: £11.85. Tro: £14.90.
2.15: 1. HAVE A NIGHTCAP (I Fidey 14-1; 2. The Commune 6-4 fax; 3. Reve En Rose 9-2, 14 ran. 13/4, 8. (N Littmoden, Whompo

RACING RESULTS

> £224.99, Tno: £109.60, NR; Corbieu, Quadrot: £17.00. Placepot: £48.40. Place 5: £41.47. Place 8: £109.97.

TV's power behind the screens

THREE EXAMPLES OF TELEVISION CALLING THE TUNE

The demands of television have left their mark across the sporting spectrum. They now threaten to take over completely

Football

Guy Hodgson

Football is the jewel in televised sport and as such it has tended to be treasured rather than tampered with. Fixtures may bear no relation to the Saturday-Tuesday-Wednesday format of former years but, beyond that, the rules have remained large-ly out of reach of TV executives. Those times are unsociable, and Fifa's frequent willingness

Indeed, if the small box has had an effect on the regulators. it has been in an abstract rather than a concrete sense. Ideas have been floated such as larger goals and games of four quarters rather than two halves. but the energy behind these proposals has come from within football rather than from out-

Fifa, world football's governing body, with an eye to the massive market in the United States, has seriously wondered about the entertainment value of its product, and such innovations as the new back-pass and offside laws have been made with half an eye on how the game would be perceived in living rooms. Yet no one has suggested that television lobbied

for these changes. The main difference to the man in the stand - apart from the infuriating TV lackey on the sidelines holding up kick-offs has been when matches are being played and at what time. Few non-armebair watchers

appreciate the 4pm Sunday kick-offs and you can barely get a printable word from Blackburn Rovers and Manchester City supporters about the 8pm start for their Boxing Day meet-

Those times are unsociable. to flick channels at television's behest was potentially danger-ous during the last World Cup. Having footballers play in Flori-da's midday heat last year to eatch Europe's evening audi-ence could have had consequences beyond dehydration and sun-stroke.

The decision of Uefa, European football's governing body. to spread European games from the traditional Wednesday has also had a knock-on effect Everion, whose Cup-Winners Cup matches were on Thursday nights, did not play a game at Goodison Park on a Saturday from 9 September to 25 November. Seven home matches were played during that period.

A less tangible change is the effect television has on support. Youngsters now have more opportunity to watch Manchester United, Liverpool and Newcastle United in their homes than they have of seeing local heroes in the flesh. The umbilical cord between clubs and their communities is being broken.

Motor racing

David Tremayne

Motor racing was once a sport that was occasionally televised. Now it is more a televised sport that is motorised. Television is everything where return perdollar invested is the bottom line. for the sponsors who pour inmillions every season.

Under the auspices of Bernie Ecclesione, the vice president of marketing for the governing body, the FIA, and president of Foca, which allocates world television rights. Formula One blossomed dramatically and team owners grew rich. Ecclestone made little secret of the fact that trackside spectators were small beer compared to skyrocketing global viewing figures.

Then the tragic San Marino Grand Prix last year, when Ayrton Senna suffered his fatal crash, forced a greater consciousness of motor sport's image. At the Monaco Grand Prix being tailored to television, with which followed, the FIA president, Max Mosley, acted quickly to stem mounting dismay among normally placid sponsors. There are even suggestions of an and announced a range of farreaching changes.

In a forthcoming book, Echoes of Imola. Ecclesione said of the much-publicised Senna accident: make trackside advertising more

Roland Ratzenberger the day before, where it hadn't been seen on television, it wouldn't have created such a terrific impact. It was the fact for an hour people were saving. What's happened to him? Is he going to make it? it was a public death. Like crucitying Jesus Christ on television. Television can be a two-edged sword. Later that year a

serious pit lane fire at Hockenheim again made sponsors nervous. Foca issues air-time figures for each team; after five races in 1995 Williams had amassed one hour, 47 minutes and 35 seconds, the now extinct Pacific team only two minutes 14 seconds. By such figures can teams justify the massive expense to their backers. If the

controversial refuelling, stopand-go penalties, and safety cars to slow the field during accidents. official handbook for aspiring race promoters, indicating that tight circuits with predominantly third and fourth-gear corners "If he had been killed like visible on the small screen.

Tennis

John Roberts

Connors, was a bigger attraction

a late night five-set semi-final

against Boris Becker and was

easily picked off by Lendl in

most glaring example of ma-

nipulation by television. After

the climax of the championships

prestigious tournament, is also

the most resolute. "We like to

think we put the players first

here in terms of scheduling matches," lan Edwards, the All

England Club's TV marketing

widest television audience is as

important as the fees involved.

the All England Club has been

associated with BBC TV since

1937. The latest contract.

Emphasising that seeking the

Wimbledon, the world's most

years of criticism, the format for

The "CBS Open" is tennis's

In 1986, Miloslav Meeir won

for prime time television.

straight sets in the final.

is under review.

director, said

Golf

Television coverage of tourna-

ments is the key to the com-

mercial success of the European

Tour and Sky has all but blacked

out the BBC. The Tour needed

an injection of cash and felt that

Sky made an offer it could not

refuse. In signing the deal it left

itself open to a charge of flog-

ter events but the lewel in the

crown, the biennial Ryder Cup

match between Europe and

the United States. When Eu-

If any sport has had a symbiot-

ic relationship with television, it

has been snooker. Without it the

game would still be the province

of working men's socials, and

Stephen Hendry would either by

struggling to make a living or selling balls in a professional's

In 1972, the year of Alex Hig-

gins' first world title, the World

Championship was played at

Selly Park British Legion, the

prize-money was £800 and spec-

tators in the overflow had to sit

on beer crates. Hendry, the

current champion, is a million-

For an undisclosed sum. Sky

ging off the family silver.

Snooker

shop at a golf club.

For years the United States featuring Ivan Lendl and Jimmy Open virtually has been run by CBS television, whose "Super-Saturday sandwiches the women's singles final between the two men's singles semi-finals.

The women have no idea at what time their supposed showcase will start, and the winner of the second men's semi-final simply hopes to have the energy to raise a game for the Sunday final. Jim Courier once described the arrangement as a "crock of shit", but conceded that "CBS pay the money and can call the tune".

Courier and Pete Sampras were the nightwatchmen in 1992 when the opening semi-final between Stefan Edberg and Michael Chang took a record

Edberg and Mats Wilander were given a 10am start to their semi-final in 1987, even though Edberg was committed to playing doubles on the previous Friday night. The Swedes were agreed last year, runs until the

Sir: With reference to your Browning having a problem glowing Monday Interview with with his skates when it seemed Torvill and Dean, my daughter to be an organisational failure): and I were part of the disap- there was no published programme of events so when the they swept to victory puts a very different gloss on an event that was a total shambles. It was a board, the scores (farcical, by the way) were announced in a rapid string: most people left television and recording took "early" (we left at 11.15pm precedence over all. Appar- with almost half of the second ently the British will only get to half still to run; most impor-

"competition". The departing 11.30pm dockustify the \$2.5m (£1.6m) con- lands train was full of disgrun- 19 December

tled and very unhappy audience members - including some VIPs To summarise only the main who not only were having to agonies: it started 45 minutes miss the show but also were late (blaming this on Kurt missing the after-show party

"with the stars" because everything was running so late. The thing that shocked us was that Torvill and Dean and Robin crowd at Twickenham for the Cousins promoted the event on "second half of the pro- TV and radio, and are pregramme" was announced to sumably getting paid for the exbegin at 10.25pm the audience ercise. This must have been tions for the England team. gasped: there was no score- without realising how their fans seeing their full programme. Still. I suppose the prizemoney acts as a great consola-

tion. It is a pity the poor old audience doesn't have anything similar to fall back on, although I, for one, am writing to IMG to ask for our money back. Yours sincerely JEAN GATEHOUSE Northwood, Middx

SPORTS LETTERS Voicing disappointment did not derive from a contempt

From Mr M Thompson Sir. Both Alan Watkins and Jack Rowell seem to misunderstand the nature of the game against Western Samoa, dissatisfaction and its aspira-

I was part of a group of peowere going to be cheated out of ple who have played the game number is an ex-Saracens make trips to support England stand-off. All strive to keep from all parts of the country. abreast of laws and tactics and love the game.

> England to play "champagne" rugby but we can aspire to the All Blacks more pragmatic but still exciting play. The booing and slow hand-clapping

for Western Samoa but from

disappointment that if England could not summon the courage to attempt such rugby in a like to point out a couple of competitive match that they small errors: Bryan Robson did were not going to lose, how would they ever have the contogether with its motives for fidence to do it against the world's best?

Not every sponsor has wel-

comed the Tour's expediency in

selling out to Rupert Murdoch.

Benson and Hedges, for exam-

ple, who have been sponsoring their International event for 25

years, chose to remain with the

BBC on the grounds that their

viewing figures would be con-

Nevertheless Sky is paying the piper. When Dunhill with-

drew its sponsorship of the

British Masters in the summer

the Tour could not find a

backer, despite the fact that the

BBC were contracted to cover

Colin McMillan is typical of the

type of boxer that television ex-

ecutives are scared of: he can

move, he has fast hands, he

barely gets hit but he rarely

knocks people out. In short,

McMillan is a TV nightmare.

ren secured an incredible deal

with Sky and left ITV with

boxers including Naseem Ham-

ed, Nigel Benn and Frank Bru-

no. Chris Eubank had left ITV

six months earlier. Warren's

deal is worth in excess of £100m

over three years, and includes

Mike Tyson's fights.

Earlier this year Frank War-

Boxing

Jack Rowell and the players should remember profession- be the quickest at the time but alism has changed the rules. It that distinction was taken away regularly and attend games is neither easy nor cheap to ob- from him by Fifa, the internaweek in, week out. One of our tain international tickets and Disappointment with unsatisfactory skills and an unwillingness to try things will be in the 1962 finals came after 15

Yours faithfully, MARK THOMPSON Sheffield 20 December

Rugby Union

The very idea that rugby union could sell itself – as opposed to its product – to the highest bidder by inserting the power of veto of transfers into contracts or by any other means was yesterday treated with disdain by the game's administrators. Rugby league's apparent agreement to cede this right to Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation will not be copied by union, no matter how much lucre he offers.

Turbulent times these may be, with the onset of professionalism, but there is one unbendable principle to which rugby union intends to adhere, even in the face of Sky's anticipated offer of £175m for the next home unions television contract. Rugby union and not a TV mogul such as Murdoch (News Corp is Sky's largest shareholder) as to control itself, including

its transfer system.
Tony Hallett, the secretary of the Rugby Football Union, said yesterday: "Were such a clause to exist, it would mean he would effectively own the game and I am certain the Rugby Union could not and would not enter into such a thing in any cir-comstances. No amount of money could buy that sort of influence on the game."

Hallett is in any case determined Sky will not be granted exclusive or unfettered rights when the next television contract comes up for negotiation next season. This is highly significant because, although the contract is in the gift of the committee of home unions, the percentage of the audience sitnated in England gives the

RFU greater leverage than Scotland, Wales or Ireland. "Any TV contract is going to have to be a partnership be-tween terrestrial and satellite." Hallett said. "However difficult it may be to resist all of satellite's offers, the two need to be doversited so that we keep faith with the majority of the public who have terrestrial only.

"It will need a judgement of Solomon but we have to get the best bid for the best of all possible worlds, hearing in mind there are many clubs who are desperate to find a way of funding the new professional game with no big bankroll available to do it." The current contract, in the

second of its three seasons. was won by the BBC for £27m was won by the BBC for 227m with Sky having primary rights to English, Scottish and Irish chib rugby for £2.4m per season. A clause in its agreement for the 1991 World Cup enabled ITV to secure the UK rights to this year's tournament in South Africa for £5.25m and to win rights for 1999.

Murdoch's principal rughy union involvement is a £360m. 10-year TV deal between News Corp and Sanza, the acronym for a company formed by the South African, New Zealand and Australian unions.

The deal has added an annual home-and-away international series starting next year involving the Springboks, All Blacks and Wallabies as well as an expanded Super 12 provincial competition to the established round of tours and domestic rugby. "I hope they have read the small print," Hallett said.

Athletics

As a sport with wide international appeal, athletics has a close relationship with television. Television coverage is a vital component of any successful meeting and some one-off races have been totally dependent

on TV money. Big names, huge egos, plenty of hype and a blockbuster of a television story all conspired to-gether in 1985 when Zola Budd and Mary Decker staged a rematch at Crystal Palace of their ill-fated Olympic meeting. American TV bankrolled the event and, naturally, called the

Duncan Mackay

WISTS

finished only fourth did not seem to matter. "Who cares?" one TV executive said afterwards. "The ratings were good. That's the bottom line."

In 1993 the 100m world record holder, Letoy Burrell, complained after he could not get a lane when Linford Christie staged his head-to-head with Carl Lewis at Gateshead. But as Lewis's manager, Joe Douglas, said at the time: "We don't want anyone else winning for the sake of television. The race everyone wants to see is between Christie and Lewis, not

An extra day was added to Television has long dictated the programme so the race the Olympic timetable. So it is could be shown live across the no surprise that, bowing to the Atlantic at prime time, while demands of TV executives, orrunners like the Olympic 3,000 ganisers have ignored the advice metres champion Maricica of their own medical commis-Puica, who may have got in on sion and will start the men's the act and spoiled the story, marathon in Atlanta next year were not invited to compete, when the afternoon sun will be The fact that Budd, paid at its hottest, humidity highest £90,000 for her appearance, and conditions most dangerous.

Cricket

Tim Glover

the tournament. In the event

Sky offered to underwrite the

lion's share of the costs and, of

course, took over the coverage.

The BBC had virtually no

choice but to waive the contract

Sky was able to call the tune

to the extent of bringing play for-

for the final round so that the

championship would be finished

in time for the satellite compa-

ny to switch to that afternoon's

Premiership football match. The

BBC were restricted to showing

Warren, who first worked

with ITV 10 years ago, admit-

ted that he was sad to end the

partnership but the money on

offer from Sky was simply too

much to refuse. Two fights pro-

moted by Warren have since at-

tracted Sky's highest-ever

fights on all channels. There are

delays between fights and when-

ever an American company is

involved there is invariably an

after-midnight start time - and

that is an insult to the paying

There are problems with

James Reed

ward to a ludicrously early hour

and take a back seat.

recorded highlights.

The BBC spokesperson was mischievous: "Crusty old members of MCC will have apoplexy when they hear this this," she said, referring to an idea being developed in New South Wales, Australia, of an eight-a-side cricket competition of hour-long matches designed specifically for television. The players would wear coloured uniforms and

each would both bowl and bat. A league would be played during the English summer and Australia's Test men would be expected to compete, ruling them out of county cricket. This announcement is the latest television-driven tinkering

with the game. What should be noted is that cricket, especially MCC, has been in the business of selling the game, in the face of competition from cock-fighting, bare-knuckle boxing, gambling, professional sprinting, horse-racing, golf and dog-fighting for around 250 years. On one occasion at Southwark, in 1744, cricket had to compete against "a run by two jolly wenches, one known as the Little Bit of Blue and the other Black Bess, to run in drawers only and excellent sport is expected".

Richard Little, the Test and County Cricket Board's media manager, insisted: "We are starting from a completely different base from Rughy League. Their deal with TV is built around broadcasting whereas in cricket the broadcasting is built

around the game. "There is such a huge fight developing between the various TV channels that every sport is being examined for broadcasting opportunities and where the basic sport either does not fit the schedule or cannot be manipulated to do so then secondary sports, or variations, will be an-

proached or even set up". Cricket will continue to come under pressure. Anyone watching Sky's Test match transmissions from abroad can sense that Sky would love to have a longer interval, for showing ads, between overs, and much shorter intervals between play at lunch, and tea.

Cricket is making one concession next summer: the Benson and Hedges Cup will be played over 50 overs, instead of 55, and there will be just one interval, usually between innings, of 45 minutes.

What suits TV also happens to be a sensible improvement by cricket, for it is clear that matches less than 60 overs hardly warrant two intervals.

T and D star in shambles on ice

pointingly small audience" at the "gloomy docklands arena" last Thursday, and to say that

From J Gatchouse

The event was set up for US see it on Sky - most of those at- tantly we didn't get to see Torvill tending on Thursday (paying up and Dean for a second time; and to £40 for their scats) did not by 11.15pm no results had been get to see the whole event be- announced of the so-called cause everything centred on getting something in the can to

tract which the organisers had cornered.

Hill, Rochester, last September

the public at large were stunned

to discover that Sky had exclu-

The majority, however, did not

abandon Auntie, they tuned in

instead to Radio 5 Live. It is es-

timated that six million people lis-

tened to the radio commentary

compared to less than a million

television viewers. Peter Alliss

with a handful of tournaments al-

though they still have the Open.

Thus far Sky has made no im-

pression on the Royal and An-

aire several times over. The dif-

ference was colour television

watched Dennis Taylor beat

Steve Davis on BBC2 in the

World Championship final.

This, it should be added, was af-

ter midnight. Snooker's match-

es are played at times with

television in mind but no one

seems to mind. In fact, the

game's governing body would

probably be more accommo-

dating if it could guarantee more BBC live coverage of the

World Championship, particu-larly during the evening.

In 1985 18.5m people

Guy Hodgson

sive rights.

gets not only the bread and but- and the BBC team are now left.

rope regained the Cup at Oak cient, who run the Open.

We do not particularly want

Off target

British fans.

From B Mellowship

viewing figures.

Sir: I have just read your interesting article today on "Football's fastest goals" and would not score the fastest goal in the World Cup finals, nor indeed

the fastest goal at Wembley. Robson's 27-second goal v France in 1982 was deemed to tional football federation, on 3 March 1994 when, after using electronic timing, they decided Vaclav Masek's goal for Czechoslovakia against Mexico

Yours sincerely
B MELLOWSHIP London \$E12 8 December

From Mr J Duncan Sir. So the European Court of opinions of, at least, certain Justice upheld the earlier ruling members of our ranks - after all in the Bosman case, effectively outlawing football's out-of-outcome of his client's career decontract transfer system. However, there's a need to steady the media ship, lest the just for the privilege of repre-"end of the transfer system as we know it" crew sails us into negotiations, then I believe li-

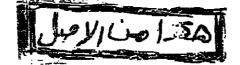
December 1979, after 20 seconds. border judgement, before we are faced with a glut of end-ofseason test cases from players who will have reached the end of their current contracts.

As an imminently licensed A word from your agent. Fifa agent, I believe the authornies should seriously consider the inclusion of the an agent can greatly influence the cisions. Also I am currently sourcing a bond of £111,000 senting other individuals during censed agents should be accorded their voice when it comes to serious discussion of the implications of future changes in

Ð © 9 9 ●

panicked waters, particularly as the new ruling is, for the time being restricted in its definition. Agreed, there is undoubtedly urgent need for revision of The fastest goal at Wembley rules relating to the domestic Yours, is credited to Maurice Cox, of transfer system here, because a JAKE-DUNGAN Cambridge University, who similar domestic ruling will in Showtime Internat scored in the Varsity match on 5 evitably follow Friday's cross 17 December

Showtime International Ltd



rom into the contract of

OFF W.

12.7-1

2.1 20.5

Madison Square Garden is making a brave effort to establish that assumptions about the future of sport may in some cases be false

Last week a headline appeared in have filled thousands who saw it with more nostalgia, brought the insidious effect of television on sport into sharper focus, than if they had heard a roar, looked up and seen great heroes from the past resurrected. The headline said, "Return to Mecca".

It announced that boxing was being revived at Madison Square Garden, an arena made synony-mous with the sport by the honour roll of great figures who have appeared there including Joe Louis. Rocky Marciano, Sugar Ray Robinson, Willie Pep, Henry Armstrong, Emile Griffith, Jersey Joe Walcott, Sandy Saddler, Roberto Duran, Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali.

In the belief that no great career a New York newspaper that must was complete without a Garden appearance, Sugar Ray Leonard fought his last contest at the famous location on West 33rd Street and Seventh Avenue. Ken Buchanan of Scotland, perhaps our best post-war boxer, became a Garden favourite when retaining the world lightweight championship and in losing it to Duran.

When such notable figures as Jack Dempsey and Benny Leonard fought at the Garden it was 16 blocks further south, but mecca is where you find it and more than 16,000 customers were counted last week when Oscar Da La Hoya gave further proof of immense potential by outclassing James Leija in defence of the World Boxing

Organisation lightweight title. In its great and spirited years, boxing was the blood of the Garden, but with the advent of television and a migration to the casinos of Nevada, it went into decline and disappeared two years ago.

A new Garden regime ITT/Sheraton, has shown itself more in sympathy with the past than Paramount, who closed the doors on boxing, and was rewarded last week when revival brought a buzz of excitement to the streets surrounding one of Manhattan's most famous landmarks.

Bob Arum, of Top Rank, was closely involved with proceedings that saw a galaxy of past and present champions at ringside, but significantly the Garden will not be



tied to one promoter or television network. Fighting in the casinos of Las Vegas and Atlantic City is one thing," Arum said, "but nothing can match the atmosphere of

As it was almost three years

since a ring in which Louis, Marciano and Robinson fought had Frazier, the Garden will now pre-been dusted off, the Garden's sent a super-middleweight title heen dusted off, the Garden's president, David Checketts, and senior vice-president of communications, John Cirillo, knew they were taking a considerable gamble. There was no guarantee that

New York fight fans were ready to be lured back from watching boxing on television so the turnout was thrilling," Cirillo said. It was not only television that caused boxing to drop out of sight at the Garden. Other reasons in-

cluded bad fights, fighters who

anniversary of the legendary first

could not really fight and patrons eager to prove that they were better equipped than the contestants. With 8 March marking the 25th

defence by Roy Jones next month. followed soon afterwards by a return bout between George Fore-man and Michael Moorer. The plan is for four major promotions

Television's power over sport -revelations about Rupert Mur-doch's activities in rugby league carried by this newspaper yesterday suggest it is an even more worrying issue than was imagined make it improbable that New York can be restored, in the words of its Governor, George Pataki, as "the capital of the boxing world".

However, Madison Square Garden is making a brave effort to es-

of three fights between Ali and tablish that widespread assumptions about the future of sport that there is no future at all without conforming to the notions of men who wield immense power may in some cases be false.

Although the pay-per-view network, Home Box Office, put out the main event and one supporting bout, last Friday's gathering at the Garden owed nothing to television. It was, in essence, eagerness to be part of a sporting experience raised from history. It worked but will it go on working? "We were greatly encouraged," Cirillo said. expressing relief.

At least it casts a small doubt against the damnable theory that television is the only form of sporting influence in store for us all.

England unable to control students

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Pietermaritzburg Combined South African Universities 253-6 v England

There is a widespread view of those involved on this tour that it has never really got going. Rain has dogged England to such an extent that the only progress made by the players has been in a game called Balderdash, a word game similar to Call My Bluff, and one that has helped them fill the many extra hours they have spent confined to hotel and dressing-room.

However, if the weather has consistently been the villain of the piece, it could not be blamed to 23 for 5 after only 13 overs.

Pakistan A win by 133 runs

bowler, Sajid Shah, in Sheikhu-

ing his first match of the series,

took 6 for 43 as England A were

dismissed for a paltry 115 in re-

ply to Pakistan As 40-over score

fit players with their cricket

duty as 12th man. A crushing

133-run defeat was, however, a disappointing end to a highly

successful tour in which England

manager, John Emburey, on

The tourists were down to 11

The right-arm bowler, play-

pura vesterday.

or 248 for 5.

land, having decided to commute the 50 miles to the Jan Smuts stadium, had to be rescued when their team bus broke down. The vehicle failed half-way up an incline - clearly a case of a hill too far in the aptly named valley of

a thousand hills. Fortunately, another coach was promptly whistled up and the game began just half an hour later than scheduled, the time lost being made up by adding 10 minutes to each of the three re-

Having lost the toss, the England bowlers started so emphatically that it looked like England might be taking the extra half an hour allowed when a result is likely, after the students slumped

A won the Test series 1-0 and the

one-day international series by

Did not out ream read, copusions of the Selman Fazal.

Bowling Munton 5-0-44-0; Giddins, 8-2-28-2; Headley 7-0-39-0; White 5-0-36-1; Stemp 6-0-33-0; McGrath 5-0-24-0; Irani 4-0-33-2.

, 2-30, 3-31, 4-52, 5-59, 6-61, 7-75,

panistan a Panistan a Said AR c Headley b Goldins ... Shahid Anner b Goldins ... Shahid Anner b Goldins ...

Tourists suffering

The hopes of the England A side of completing a clean sweep in the one-day series against Pakistan A - and finishing the tour unbeaten - were dashed by a 21-year-old fast browler Said Chab in Chailban.

Said Mic Reading to Godons Shahad Arward to Godons b Iran - Astar Mahmood c Manuan b White - Astar Mahmood c Manuan b White - Manual Fazzi not out - State 182, 183, 1817, 1818, 183, 283, 3171, 1826, 5 222.

Did not bat: Azan Whan Soid Shah. Archael

was during that game that Gatting confronted a large group of protesters, whose passionate out-rage so affected Dr Ali Bacher that he promptly called off that and all future rebel tours. Unfortunately for the visitors. the pressure was not maintained.

pleasant tree-ringed ground, one

of which was planted five years

ago by Mark Rushmere in com-

memoration of the 150 he scored

against Mike Gatting's rebels. It

As only England show, the capacity to enthrall can be just as quickly replaced by a sloppiness that appears long endemic in the county game. As they glaringly failed to do in the last Test, England hesitated in sinking their teeth into the exposed jugular, and the students, with only four of their side having had first-class experience, wriggled free. Two of those, Nic Pothas and

Mark Davis, began the restoration of normal service with a stand of 85 before Davis edged flott behind to give the left-armer his fifth wicket of the innings. But for these two, and the solidly capable Nicky Boje who ended the day unbeaten on 42, Ilott's fourwicket strike for nine runs in 25 balls would have rent a terminal fissure in the home side's batting. As it was, Pothas, a 22-year-

old student at the Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg, completely dominated the England bowling, as both ball and spirit softened in the afternoon gloom, before dropping to an all-time low when Devon Malcolm dropped a lofted sweep off Mike Watkinson at deep square leg. Pothas was particularly se-

vere on the returning flott and when bad light ended play early, Pothas was still there on 141, comfortably his highest firstclass score, which may yet allow

With three minutes left. Rob

Thompson, making the most of his exceptional reach, robbed an

Egyptian defender coming out of the circle to set Mayer up for

the second goal. Surprisingly, it was Mayer's first goal for

Britain in his 39th appearance.

Britain in his 39th appearance. Ediffer, 6 Habim: I Towis Leadt, M. Monam, A. Atoelyse, M. Yand, B. Brehim; M. Rifast, Y. Mon-am, M. Samis, I. Aran, M. Mchalla, Substitution made: A. Albes, M. Mahmeud, A. Fatab and M. Saret, SERSAT BRITAIN, S. Manoon (Preparads); J. My-att (Reading), J. Habis (Unit Langhtermans); G. Fran-hadis (Hourstow); C. Batyler (Cannock), R. Gar-che (Polo Barcelona), R. Thotapson (Hourstow), J. Lassiett (eaght (Hedingson), N. Thompson (Old Loughtermans), Substitution used: C. Gilee Ha-vanti, Soma Stagh, and J. Shew (Southgiste), D. Hall (Guetford).

Umphres: A Amin and H Korany (both Egypt).



Jason Gallian almost bowls his first ball of the tour in Pietermaritzburg yesterday

his side the bizarre luxury of declaring sometime today after being dead meat a day earlier.

England's early dominance was entirely due to Ilott. Taking the new ball and with the wind at his back, the left-armer soon had Andrew Wessels caught by Robin Smith at short-leg off the back of his bat. Getting well under Hott's bouncer. Wessels tin, who struggled manfully into you leave the hat poking Liebenberg well caught down their turn sometime later today.

the leg side by Russell - had his periscope-like as he did, the odd day curtailed by a sore shoulder. scuppering is bound to happen. Hott then bowled Martin van Jaarsveld before Nizaan Adams

llott apart. England lacked spark and penetration, and neiand Vaughan Wandrag followed ther spinner impressed on a each other back to the pavilion pitch that offered some slow in the 13th over. Ray Illingworth turn. Even Jason Gallian had a is clearly backing flott and Pebowl before dislocating the ter Martin over Malcolm and small finger of his left hand stop-Fraser for the next Test, but Marping a drive in the covers. It is unlikely to affect his botting may feel he was unlucky, but if the breeze - having Gerhardus when England eventually get

Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

M.C. Bolt. Umpires: R.B. Shan and S.F. Murus

Gunnell booked in for Glasgow

Athletics

Sally Gunnell, the Olympic 400 metres hardles champion, will run indoors for Britain against France at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on 24 February.

Gunnell opens her brief indoor season at the LAAF Ricoh Tour meeting two weeks earlier as she makes her return from the Achilles injury which prevented her defending her world title in Gothenburg last summer.

The Kelvin Hall international will prepare the British team for the European Indoor Championship in Stockholm two weeks later. The bulk of the team will already have been selected and are likely to take part." Tony Ward, the British Athletic Federation spokesman. said. "Add to that one or two who will be out to convince the selectors of their European potential, and we have the makings of a first-class competition."

Mel Neef, Britain's 400m No I last season, the sprinter Darren Braithwaite and the European hurdles medallist. Tony Jarrett, are also expected to take part. But a confrontation with Gunnell is not immediate-Is ahead for Neef. The Scot will run over 200m at Kelvin Hall be fore switching to her premier distance, she hopes, in Stockholm. Jonathan Edwards will have a chance to compete for the Golden Four jackpot next season. The

men's triple jump has been named as one of the 10 disciplines in the Golden Four series of meetings, in Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin. The other men sevents are 200m; 800m; 3,000+5,000m; 400m hurdles and discus; the women's 1500m and 100m hurdles.

Great Britain grateful to Garcia

Bruding Advisor 5-0-9-0; Sheh 8-0-43-6; Mah-mood 4-0-22-1; S Fazai 2-0-15-0; Arshad Khan 3-0-12-2; Anwar 1-4-0-11-1.

BILL COLWILL

In soaring temperatures in Caire's giant Nasser City Stadium, built for the 1991 African Games, Great Britain yesterday beat Egypt 2-0 in the first of a two-Test series. After scoring a third-minute

goal. Britain let the Egyptians off the hook and gave them the opportunity to dominate the first half before regaining con-

Russell Garcia at their first penalty corner as specialist striker Calum Giles slipped the ball to Garcia to surprise the Egyptian defence.

Britain's rhythm was disturbed shortly afterwards as Garcia was injured and replaced by John Shaw and it was only a couple of fine saves by Simon Mason that kept Britain ahead.

Britain improved after the interval, but it was the arrival of Soma Singh for Kalbir Takher at centre-half 10 minutes from Britain went ahead through time which proved decisive.

Hilton is fined by Hornets

Rugby League

The Rochdale Homets forward Tony Hilton has been fined an undisclosed sum by his club af-ter being banned for three months by the Rugby League. Rochdale have also warned the 24-year-old Hilton about his future conduct, after he tested positive for ephedrine following last month's game against Featherstone Rovers.

Ephedrine is found in cough and cold remedies, but Hornets' secretary, Paul Reynolds, said:

"We have always made it plain 11 days in a hectic Christmas pe we will not tolerate the use of banned substances." Hilton is the first player in the

domestic game to be suspendthrown out of the World Cup after testing positive for banned substances. The Rugby League has taken steps to try to eradicate the use of banned substances - it tests players at training in and out of season and tests two members of each side

after matches. St Helens face four games in

riod after bringing forward their home game against Warrington from Sunday 7 January to Friday 5 January to be televised by ed for drug-taking this season.

Sky Sports. Their Boxing Day although three players were derby at Wigan is followed by the Regal Trophy semi-final home tie with Warrington on Saturday 30 December and a home match against Leeds on New Year's Day. Widnes have been given the

go-ahead to start work on an ambitious £8m redevelopment programme at Naughton Park, their home since 1884.

SPORTING DIGEST

Wasim puts spell on Kiwis man of the match, Wasim

Pakistan thrashed New Zealand by 54 runs in the third one-day match between the sides in Wellington vesterday to take a 3-1 lead in the four-match series. New Zealand won the toss

and put the tourists in, but little else went right for the Kiwis es Pakistan piled on 261 for 4 in perfect conditions in front of a sell-out Basin Reserve crowd. New Zealand took off in pursuit of the target with Craig Spearman scoring a quickfire 33, but the Pakistan captain and

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of languages spoken by Switzerland's new football coach, Artur Jorge. In addition to the country's three national languages - Ger-man, French and Italian - he speaks English. Spanish and his native Portuguese.

Akram, removed him and Bryan Young in successive balls. When Aqib Javed had Nathan Astle caught two balls later, New Zealand's fate was virtually sealed. They were all out for 207 in the 45th over when Wasim uprooted opposing captain Lee

Germon's middle stump.
The win was set up by Pakistan's opening batsmen, Ramiz Raja and Aamir Sohail, before Ramiz was run out for 21. Sohail scored 58 before Gavin Larsen bowled him when he played across the line. Inzamamul-Haq (54) and Ijaz Ahmed (42) increased the tempo and even their dismissals brought no respite. Salim Malik and Wasim Akram hammered the New Zealanders relentlessly, Wasim scoring 36 not out off just 15 deliveries, including two sixes and

three fours. ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL (Wellingtos): Palostan 261 for 4; New Zestand 207. Pak-istan won by 54 runs and lead 2-1 in four-match series.

FIXTURES Football

PONTINS LEAGUE Plest Division: Leeds Utd v Sicke City (7.0) (at Halifa) Town). JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Promier DiviAthletics

Jonathan Edwards, Britain's triple jump world record holder, has been given a chance to compete for the most lucrative prize in athletics next season. The men's riple jump has been named as one of the 10 disciplines in the Golden Four series of meetings, where athletes compete for a share of a jackpot of 20 one-lidio gold bars – worth around £166,000.

NBA: Detroit 94 Toronto 82; Cievelano 100
Mitmesora 95; New York 89 Marini 70; Housron 103 Phoenic 96; Christip 114 Delles 101;
Liss Angeles Lakers 109 Mitwaukoe 105; San Antonio 111 Portland 103; Vancouver 94 Sesttie 90; Golden State 102 Charlotte 99; Washington 108 Los Angeles Cuppers 104.

Cycling

Span's Maguel Indurein, who won his fifth successive Tour de France this year, received the Olympic Order yesterday, one of the highest given by the International Olympic Committee, induran plans to compete at next summer's Atlanta Olympics, when the Games will be open to professional cyclists for the first time. Lingano in Switzerland has been chosen as the venue for the 1996 Road World Championships from 9 to 13 October.

Football The biggest-ever competition for schools in England and Weles. The New Europe: A Competition for Schools', has been set-up by The Footbell Association and the National Union of Teachers to celebrate next year's European Champinochip, finals. The aim is to beln onship finals. The aim is to help youngsters from the 48 countries who took part in the qualifying process for Euro 96 develop their Interest in the game and create more positive attitudes towards people from Europe. LOAN TRANSFER: Gareth Hall (defender)
Chelses to Sunderland.
WELSH CUP Fifth-round draw: Aberystwyth
Town or Ossesty Town v Bary Town; Christian
Town v Porthmadog Ebbw Vole v Inter Cardif;
Pontyprid Town v Lansantifred. (Ties to be
played 10 February).
Porthmado E CART land to proceedings SUS. REVISED FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP SUS-

PENSION (due to Football Association amended rulings Cartison Painer (Leos Utd 2 matches from 27 December. TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Enzisleigh Insurance League Second Division: Peterbrough O Stodport 1. Third Division: Full-am 4 Cartiff 2; Herefort 3 Scumborpe 0. Bell's Cartison and Cartison and Cartison Cartison. surance League Second Division: Peter-brough O Stodport 1. Third Division: Fuham 4 Cardiff 2; Hereford 3 Susniforpe 0. Bell's Scottlish League Premier Division: East String 5 Albion Rovers 1. GMI Vascobal Conterense: Northweb 2 Feford 0. Unblished League Premier Division: East String 5 Albion Rovers 1. GMI Vascobal Conterense: Northweb 2 Feford 0. Unblished League Premier Division: Name 1 According to Starley 2. League Cup third round: Gardborough Tannly 4 Frickley 1; Guseey 1. Boston Und 1. President's Cup Hist round: Alberton Laburmann Rovers 2 Witton Albion 5; Radchife Borough 3 Spornymore United 2. Beazer Honnes League Premier Division: Burton Albion 0 Salssbury 1. Southern Division: Fleet 1 Newport flow) 1. Dr Markens Cup second round: Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Crawley 2; Rothwell 0 Ning's Lynn 1. Second round replaye: Gilson 5 Fuestom 2. Postponed: Trywondge v Bashley. Lels League Premier Division: Leyton Peremier Division: Leyton Peremier Division: Fleet 0. Starley Content on third traum? Alberton 1. Strong 2 (seet: Heybridge 3 thorough 1; Suttom United 3 Abangton Town 0. Prostponed: Wholson: Leyton Peramer 1 Drame 0. Third 1 Yeading 2 (seet: Heybridge 3 thorough 1; Suttom United 3 Abangton Town 0. Prostponed: Wattom and Hersham v lungssonan. Cerffield 1 Yeading 2 (seet: Heybridge 3 thorough 1; Suttom United 3 Abangton 10 Am 0. Prostponed: Wattom and Hersham v lungssonan. Cerffield 1 Yeading 2 (seet: Heybridge 1 Calor County Antrim Sheki Sagail-final: Baltymen 0 Crusades 2. North West Counties League Pirst Division: Boote 1 Citierton 1; March 1 Suttom United 1 Division: Division 1 Division: Boote 1 Citierton 1; March 2 Citierton 3; String 1 Division: Ringire 5 Haisham 1, League Pirst Division: Ringire 5 Haisham 1, League First Division: Ringire 5 Haisham 1.

Division: Everton 3 Sheffield Wednesday 0. Second Division: Rotherham 0 Bradford 3. Third Division: Chesterfield 3 Bury 2; Shrewsbury 0 Carlsale 3. Avon Insurance Combination First Division: West Ham 1 Watford 0. FA Youth Cup Third round: Portsmouth 1 Watford 2.

WOMEN'S RANKINGS Leading positions: 1 L Davies (Eng. 384, 73ps; 2 A Sovenstam (Swe) 309,20; 3 B Danel (US) 245,77; 4 L Neumann (Swe) 223 36; 5 D Mochne (US) 202,65; 6 K Robars (US) 180,09; 7 B King (US) 155,37; 8 M McCann (US) 154,33; 9 M Matton (US) 146,30; 10 T Green (US) 136,68; Selected: 14 A Nicholas (Eng. 122,25; 28 L Farrdough (Eng. 79,00).

Ice hockey
NML Plusburgh 7 Calgary 1; New Jersey 5
Prinadelphia 4 rotr; Tampa Bay 6 Winnipeg
3: St Louis 4 New York islanders 1; San Jose
7 Anahem 4.

Motor racing Motor racing

Rear-Admiral Roger Lane-Nort, a former nuclear submanne captain who is currently the commander of all NATO submannes in the eastern Atlantic, has been appointed the FIA's Formula One safety delegate and race director. He will supervise safety arrangements at all hext season's Formula One races starting with the first, the Australian Grand Pro at Melbourne on 10 March.

Pools
UTILEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts
13.618.85, 23 1106.95, 22 16 70, 21
22.75. Four draws 15.85, 10 homes
1327.20. Five aways 1198.70.
VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts
11.290.50, 23 149.05, 22 13.65, 10
homes paid on nine correct 129.10. Five
aways 123.15.
BRITTENS: Treble chance: 24pts
1400.00, 23 15.65, 22 10.85. Four
draws 111.80. Eight homes 123.10. Five
aways 144.30.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £510.20, 23 £7.55, 22 £0.75. Four draws £8.40. Eight bomes £54.00 Four aways £45.80. Easy sh £724.00. Goals galore £1.35. Uscky numbers 32 1 4 8 24 19

Rugby Union

Wasps will play Lawrence Dallaglio and Damian Hopley in their international positions for the first time this season when they go to Sale in the fourth round of the Pilkington Cup on Saturday. Hopley, normally a certire, is given a chance to play on the right wing while Dallaglio, the captain, who has been at blind-side flanker for his club, moves to open-side.

Skiing
ALPINE WORLD CUP (Veysonnaz, Swit)
Womon's super-giant claion: 1 A Mess-nizer (Jul) 1 mm 28.72sess: 2 H Zuringen (Swit 128.90; 3 M Ordmester (Jul) 1279.17.
Super-giant standings (after three races): 1 Messnitor 222pts; 2 N Sezanger (Ger 165; 3 M Ern (Ger 160, Overall standings: 1 Ness-nizer 448pts; 2 Sezanger 405; 3 A Worther (Jul) 379, Nations' Cup standings: 1 Aus-tic 2,035pts; 2 Germany 1.189; 3 Switch-land 951; 4 hay 555; 5 United States 545.

SQUASH SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION RANKBNGS: Marc 1 D Hems (Essex), 2 S Parke fromsharer: 3 M Challoner (Incolnisturer; 4 C
Valker (Essex); 5 M Carms (Ordont/Sharet, 8) Neotile (Notanghansharet; 7 P Johnson ukent;
8 S Measts (Borssharet; 9 T Hands (Essex); 10 D Meddings (Surrey) Women; 1 C Jackman (Norfak); 2 S Homen (Yorksharet; 3 F Genesis (Goucestersharet; 4 S Winght (Nemt); 5 J Marlan (Norfak); 2 S Longman (Sussex); 7 R
Moorne (Essex); 8 D Longman (Sussex); 9 J Thacker (Yorksharet; 10 A Wing) (Yorksharet)

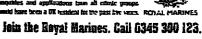
Table tennis PROLAND WOMEN'S RANKINGS Leading po-ditions: 1.A Holt (Lancashrer; 2.1 Lomas Red-fordshrer; 3.4 Broe (Benshirer); 4.N Deaton (Dertoshrer: 5.1 Radford (Essey); 6.5 Mar-ling (Yorkshrer: 7. H Lower (Staffordshire); 8. Harris, Csaffordshirer; 9.k Goodall (Yorkshire), 10.G Schwartz (Serkshire)

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Concern

over

'loyalty'

clause

Rugby League was in a state of confusion vesterday as leading figures in the sport tried to analyse the "lovalty" contracts

some players have signed with

the new Super League.
A document passed to the Independent reveals that any

ransfer involving one of an elite

group of players who have

signed the contracts can be blocked by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, which has put £87m into the new Super

eague, which starts in March.

chairman, Jack Robinson, hoped that the clause would be unenforceable. If a buying club and a selling club were in

agreement and a player want-

ed to go, surely the freedom of

contract regulations would stop anyone interfering," he said:

One concern for Robinson

though, is that in theory at least control of the transfer tisrker could be used to prevent his club's continuing pre-eminence in the sport. That would worry me," he said. It would be to-

tally unfair because of the

amount of players we have lost." David McKnight, managing

firector of Premier Crew Sports

Vanagement, represents many

leading players such as Va'aiga

Tuigamala, Henry Paul, Terty O'Connor, Kris Radiinski, Si-mon Hangbion and Craig Mur-

dock at Wigan, and Chris loynt and Bobbie Goulding at St He-

He was critical of the speed

with which the deals were done

at the height of the battle be-

tween Murdoch's Super Leagu

and the Kerry-Packer-backed

Anstralian Rogby League. "I know of cases of players who

were taken into a room and told

that the offer wasn't going to be

there if they didn't sign there

and then - and that is dis-graceful, he said.

sacrifice flexibility in the future for an immediate financial benefit. He said the contracts were designed to combat the ARL The main driving force behind it was that, after receiving large sums of money, they could be stopped from going outside the News do have to be advised that

a player wants to move within Super League. I can't see for

practical reasons that it would be useful to News to stop a move from one Super League club to another."
David Howes, the chief ex-

ecutive of St Helens, called for clarification. "We will have to

now ask for guidance from the League on the interpretation of the clause," he said. "Five or six of our players got a loyalty bonus and were under a lot of

For most, he added it had a been a commercial decision to

lens, who have sign

on contracts as Wiga

No club has as many players

should should selebi duristi

john W de fas pod S

Film: H

Grant a

year of

Strong !

YL

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Ireland ready for end of Charlton era

Football DAVID HUGHES

To say that Jack Charlion's days as Republic of Ireland manager are numbered would be an understatement: it now seems merch a question of how many. Perhaps as little as one if senior figures within the Football Association of Ireland have their way. It is not so much that they will push him before he jumps. more that they are inclined to

give him a helpful little nudge. Charlton is expected to fly into Dublin today for a meeting with leading FAI executives amid mounting speculation that the most enduring managerial reign in European international football is about to end. In the

Championship play-off defeat to the Netherlands at Anfield a week ago, he said he would consider his position over Christmas, intimating that at the very least he would like to celebrate a decade in charge on 7 February before taking his leave. But, if a decade suddenly

seems a short time in football. then the last seven days also demonstrates that a week is a long time in politics - and there has been plenty of that in the corridors of the FAI's Merrion Square headquarters.
Phone-in polls have seen

Charlton's popularity remain undimmed, but there is increasing dissatisfaction with Saint Jack within the footballing community as a whole. The deep-lying conservatism which has fall-out from the European prompted some erratic selections

O'Neill set for Leicester

Leicester City and Luton Town are expected to name their new managers today, with Martin O'Neill moving in at Filbert Street and either Mike Walker or Lennie Lawrence taking over at Kenilworth Road. Norwich City have given

Leicester permission to talk to the 43-year-old O'Neill, following his resignation after only six months in charge of the Canaries. The Leicester chairman. Martin George, is negotiating a compensation deal of £500,000 with Norwich, and O'Neill may be appointed in time for Saturday's trip to Grimsby.

Walker and Lawrence have been interviewed by the Luton board for the post vacated by Terry Westley, Walker, who has also been linked with Leicester. has been out of management for 13 months since being sacked by Everton, Lawrence was sacked

by Bradford City last month. At another First Division club. West Bromwich Albion, the chairman Tony Hale is prepared to stand down if a new backer comes forward. "If there is somebody with a lot of money who wants to put it into West

Bromwich Albion and their

heart is in the club, then I will

talk to them." he said.

Matthew Wicks, 17, is at the centre of a tug-of-war between three London clubs after deciding that he wants to leave Manchester United. Their manager. Alex Ferguson, is having talks with Tottenham about the defender, who is the subject of a Football Association inquiry into "poaching" allegations made by Arsenal. The Gunners would like him back and Chelsea are also said to be interested in the son of their former defender. Steve Wicks.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

in the defeats by Portugal and the Netherlands (six defenders started both games, seven finished the latter) and increasing evidence that Charlton's personality and methods no longer influence an ever-changing squad has prompt-ed most leading FAI power brokers to seek his departure. Furthermore, many are frustrated that a decade of unprecedented growth at senior international level has coincided with 10 years of stagnation at un-

The need for a quick decision is compounded by the meeting of national managers in Liecht-enstein on 23 January to agree fixtures for the World Cup qualifying campaign and a February friendly. Hence, by last Friday, senior figures within the FAI were disclosing that Charlton had indicated he would resign before, rather than after Christmas, and a statement was procured from "an FAI spokesperson" which said if Charlton did not voluntarily resign then the FAI would have to consider their position.

By Monday, the FAΓs chief executive, Sean Connolly, confirmed that Charlton had requested a meeting with FAI executives in Dublin this week and the only seeks meetings like this when there is something to discuss". By Tuesday he had reputedly cancelled his Christmas get-together over a few drinks with top FAI figures.

By vesterday, an emotional and trate Charlton was confirming he was coming to Dublin to meet leading FAI executives. "All I wanted was time to make up my mind and now it looks as if I'm not going to be given that time." he said.

Meantime, in the succession stakes. Mick McCarthy has overtaken Joe Kinnear and Kenny Dalglish in the betting.



Speed queen: Alexandra Meissnitzer heads for victory in a super-glant slalom in Switzerland yesterday

Meissnitzer confirms Austrian revival

Skiing

Alexandra Meissnitzer, the new darling of the Austrian team, continued her superb form this season by winning a women's alpine World Cup super-giant slalom in Veyson-

naz, Switzerland, vesterday. Austria was deprived of a one-two by Switzerland's Hei-di Zurbriggen, who nipped frenchwoman was flown to

into second place ahead of with hospital and was later ruled out tion in an Austrian team that for the rest of the season after Michaela Dorfmeister. Meissnitzer, the overall World Cup doctors operated on a dislocated right hip.

Masnada has been particuleader who has five times finished in the top three in as many races, clocked 1min 28.72sec, Zubriggen 1:28.90 and Dorfmeister 1:29.17,

The race was held up for 30 minutes after Florence Masnada fell heavily after crossing

larly unfortunate. The winner of one race, a super-G in

Garmisch-Partenkirchen last season, she has missed three full seasons through injury. Meissnitzer knows no such problems and has been catapaulted into prominent posi-

traditional powers as the sea-SOIL DIOPTESSES.

Her first victory came in the super-G in Val d'Isère two weeks ago. She then placed third in a giant slalom in the same French resort, and she was third and second in two downhills during last weekend's Austrian dominated races at St Anton.

would do the utmost with the or-

gamising committee to allow

any solution to accept athletes."

is regaining the strength asso-ciated with one of the sport's

pressure on the day. The club was not directly involved with the contracts." Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of the nugby league, denied the body was surren-dering its position of authority. "It is absolute nonsense to suggest that we have given up con-trol of our sport or any part of it," he said. The claims that the North Korea but hoped Carter's initiative would succeed.

loyalty agreements signed be-"Anything which can contribute to bring all nations to the Games has to be encouraged." he said. "If anybody can deliver, we would only be pleased." While the deadline for replies tween players and News Corporation require the players to play wherever News Corporation say is unfair and irrespon-Voluntary loyalty agreements have been signed by players. was 15 November, Carrard said the IOC would not reject a late entry from the North Koreans. "We are trying not to penalise the athletes," he said. "We

Those loyalty agreements will benefit the player, the clubs of the Rugby Football League and the fans. The simple troth was that, within hours of the RFL signing News Corporation's contract, North Korea boycotted the 1984 and 1988 Olympics but competed at the 1992 Australian Rugby League, who tried to sign overnight almost the entire Great Britain and Wales Barcelona Games. The North playing squads.
The sole intention was to pre-Koreans have not competed in

any major international sports vent those players from signing competitions over the past year. for Manly or any ARL club."

Win the complete Oxford English Dictionary on CD-Rom or the complete works of Charles Dickens in this Saturday's

Christmas Jumbo Crossword.

- Mark off after a job? He may become a doctor (12) 9 Athlete set free when u ransom's forthcoming? (7) 10 Propose hosting German

ACROSS

- guests, maybe (7) 11 Refusal in France to accommodute European element (4) 12 Consider moving piece
- back no good (5) 13 Motoring organisations about to make a mark (4)
- 16 London borough housing old aristocrat (7) 17 Art deserving payment in
- advance? (7) 18 Irreligious person is first to be linked with articles (7)
- 21 Condition in jail almost overcoming old viscount (7)
- 23 Vegetable King's taken with

*D

Afrone Road, Waiford

- a drink (4) 24 Within a month, bishop wil
- get wed (5)
 25 Miss being captain? (4)
 28 Edging around at a rate of knots? (7) 29 Nothing in east Belgiar
- province to charm? (7) 30 Craft room with weaving implement (5.7) DOWN
- Girl briefly taken into Queen Catherine's reception room (7)
- Oil reservoir overcoming power problem (4)
- Ardent support for erection of friendly drinking-place round here! (7) Playwright originally missed taking part in service, not
- being there (7) Persuade group leader to plunge into river (4)
- intolerable sentimentality

2) Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lundon E14 (DL, and printed at Murror Colour Prant. St

Thursday 21 December 1945 Propolated at a new graper with the Prof. Online

- 7 Curved bits of ironmongery
- possibly coming into the equation? (5, 8) Members of assault force
- are raving, so report sick (5-8) 14 Forger's equipment going under the hammer (5)
- 15 Lapse leads to rollicking in hesitation over run (5) 19 High point for one rookie
- lieutenant, gatecrashing dance (7) 20 Chemical producing nasty effect in many a stream?
- Nouveau riche not original-ly allowed into sophisticat-ed rave-up (7) More ski development?
- Boring (7) 26 One's implicated in football
- club's finances (4) in performance of Lear, etc 27 Isn't able to perceive hypocrisy (4)

Sampras and Graf top Tennis she entered: the French Open. Wimbledon and the US Open.

Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf have been named world champions for 1995 by the International Tennis Federation. Sampras won the award for

the third straight year, while Graf was named for the sixth time in the past nine years. Sampras won Wimbledon and

the US Open, each for the third time, and was the runner-up in the Australian Open. He won three other tournaments and led the United States to victory in the Davis Cup final against Rus-sia earlier this month.

Graf, despite her father. Peter, being in prison on matters relating to tax evasion, won all three Grand Slam tournaments French Open next May.

The German also won the sea son-ending WTA Tour Championship and suffered only two defeats during the year. How-ever, she will miss the Australian Open next month because of a chipped bone in her left foot.

The ITF president, Brian Tobin, said: "Both Pete Sampras and Stelfi Graf have played ex-ceptional tennis this year and fully deserve to be recognised again as the best of the best." The wheelchair world

champions for 1995 were David Hall of Australia and Monique Kalkman of the Netherlands. The awards will be presented at the annual ITF World Champions' Dinner in Paris during the

Carter's Korean task

Olympic Games

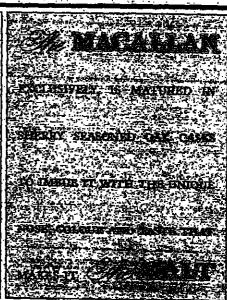
The International Olympic Committee yesterday welcomed efforts by the former president Jimmy Carter to persuade North Korea to compete at next summer's Atlanta Games. Of the 197 nations invited by the IOC to send teams to At-

lanta, North Korea is the only one that has not accepted. Carter, who sent a letter personally inviting the North Koreans to come, said Tuesday he had been informed by North Korea's leaders that they "are

reconsidering participating.

The IOC director general,
François Carrard, said in Lausame that he had received no new information concerning

The MALT



A DELIVERY MAN



